■ Lifestyle / E1
Made-to-measure, precision-fit dazzlers

■ Across / A17
NPA rebels storm Nueva Ecija town hall, police station

■ News / A2
Gov't declares ceasefire from Dec. 16 to Jan. 5

■ Entertainment / A32
Fans whisper 'thank you, FPJ'

■ Business / B1
Oil firms reject calls for price rollback

■ News / A3
Palace declares Dec. 24 and Dec. 27 special non-working days

## SC orders gov't to return Journal group to owners

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SUPREME Court has ordered the government to return control of the debt-ridden Philippine Journalists Inc. (PJI) to its private shareholders once they pay its debt.

PJI owns the tabloids People's Journal, Peo-

SC ORDERS/ A8


PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, December 17, 2004 ★★★ 92 pages / 13 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 9 P18

website: www.inq7.net


## Funeral convoy to stop by a place loved by FPJ

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE MOVIE studio that could well be a monument to his hard work would be the only stop of the funeral convoy that would bring Fernando Poe Jr. to his final resting place on Dec. 22.

Stopping by a place known to have had much meaning to the deceased in his lifetime is part of

FUNERAL/ A21

# Angry Susan speaks out

## *Widow hits ABS-CBN for biased election reporting*

By Ester Dipasupil, Fe Zamora
and Luige A. del Puerto

**SUSAN Roces, dubbed as "the face that refreshes" of Philippine movies in the late '50s, hardly looked like the demure debutante of the numerous flowers and frills movies she had starred in, but a woman who "was ready to tell everything that my husband had prevented me from saying."**

In a fighting mood on the day she and her late husband Fernando Poe Jr. considered their "true" wedding anniversary (the couple marked their elopement 36 years ago yesterday, and were married in church rites on Dec. 25, 1968), Roces categorically asked for an accounting of the "persons responsible for besmirching my husband's name" on nationwide television, and lashed at critics who had called her husband "a mere actor" who had no business being in politics.

In a rare outburst of anger, the actress asked what had come of those who had besmirched her husband's name, adding that her family would not allow their honor to be trampled upon.

"What has been the punishment of those who faked (my husband's)

ANGRY/ A21

THE LOOK of love and loss defines the face of Susan Roces as she goes straight to her husband's casket upon arriving at Sto. Domingo Church on Thursday, which also marked the couple's 36th wedding anniversary. REM ZAMORA

## Mourners stream on; orderly lines restored

By Luige A. del Puerto
and Christine O. Avendaño

THERE has been no letup in the stream of people coming to view the body of Fernando Poe Jr. at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City.

"We never thought there would be so many people," Rez Cortez, chair of the National Coordinating Council of Volunteers (for Poe), said yesterday, referring to the queue of mourners that had not been broken since 2 a.m. on Wednesday, when the body arrived at the church from the Arlington East funeral home in Pasig City.

Linggoy Alcuaz, a Poe ally and one of the wake organizers, said he had suggested that a second queue be formed to accommodate the large crowds expected in the next few days.

Organizers made a few changes yesterday morning, in reaction to a stampede that occurred earlier, resulting in injuries to a dozen Poe supporters.

Mourners now have to enter the St. Martin's Chapel, where the coffin lies, through a small gate on Sto. Domingo Avenue that is directly across from the chapel. They exit through another gate, the one near Quezon Avenue, making a near loop in the process.

In a press conference, Cortez and Poe's younger brother, Conrad, appealed to mourners to be

MOURNERS/ A21

## Court OKs Erap visit to FPJ wake but not burial

By Armand N. Nocum

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada may attend his best friend's wake, but not his burial.

Led by its new presiding justice, Teresita de Castro, the Sandiganbayan yesterday issued a ruling allowing Estrada to leave his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, on Dec. 21 and travel to the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City for the last day of Fernando Poe Jr.'s wake and the burial Mass set for the following morning.

But the antigraft court rejected Estrada's request—made through Rene Saguisag, one of his lawyers—to be present when his buddy of 40 years is laid to rest at the North Cemetery in Manila.

The 24-hour pass for Estrada also covers a visit to his mother, Mary, at her house in Greenhills, San Juan.

Per the Sandiganbayan ruling, Estrada will be taken to his mother's house at 9 a.m. on Dec. 21. He will remain there until he decides to go to the wake, where he will stay until the funeral Mass on Dec. 22.

After the Mass, he will be brought back to his rest house where he is detained on plunder and perjury charges.

Saguisag had earlier justified Estrada's request to attend Poe's interment by saying that the Au-

COURT/ A4

## *Cigarette wreath for 105-year-old smoker*

LONDON—Nursing home staff paid tribute to a 105-year-old British woman who had smoked since the age of 15 by cremating her with a packet of cigarettes and laying a large floral cigarette on her coffin.

Marie Ellis died—of natural causes—at the Eaton Lodge Nursing Home in Kent, southeast England, in early December and was cremated on Tuesday, clutching a packet of her favorite Benson and Hedges cigarettes.

"We will always remem-

CIGARETTE/ A4

## Lowering flag for Poe violates law, rules NHI

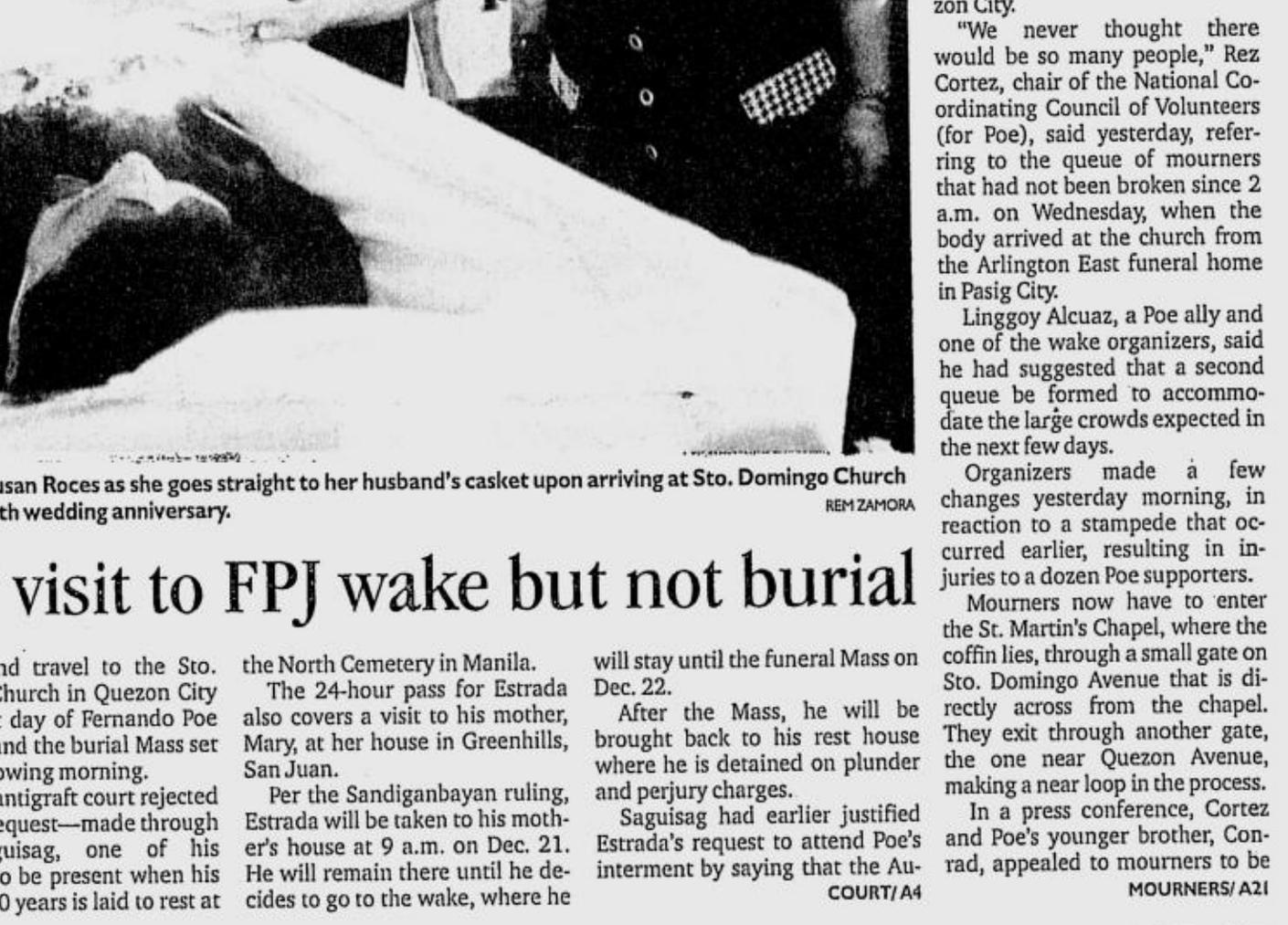
By Ambeth R. Ocampo
*Chair, National Historical Institute*

SHOULD Fernando Poe Jr. be honored by having the Philippine flag lowered at half-staff all over the archipelago as an expression of national mourning?

A motion was recently made in Congress for this to be done, leading to a debate that left the matter unresolved. Under Republic Act No. 8491, more popularly known as the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, there are specific places, and persons to be so honored and the late actor does not fall under any of these categories: heroes, government officials (both high and low, past and present, everyone from the president to a public school teacher can be honored nationally and locally), military and police personnel, and others decorated with national awards.

COMMENTARY

LOWERING/ A21



THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS: The "simbang gabi" (dawn Masses) on Thursday, Dec. 16—this one at the University of Sto. Tomas grounds—marks the start in the country of the nine-day novena in preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

# GMA to sign 'sin tax' bill into law before Christmas

By Michael Lim Ubac

BOTH chambers of Congress ratified yesterday the bicameral committee version of the higher excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol, paving the way for its signing into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal would sign the bill before Christmas Day.

"As soon as the enrolled bill is sent [to Malacañang], I think that it will be signed immediately," said Bunye, who was at the Senate to attend a hearing on the proposed budget of the Office of the Press Secretary.

The measure, titled "An Act Increasing the Excise Tax Rates Imposed on Alcohol and Tobacco, amending Sections 131, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145 and 288 of the National Revenue Code of 1997," is the first of the eight proposed tax measures approved by Congress.

The measures seek to raise about P80 billion in additional revenues a year to avert a debt default.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said revenue from the "sin taxes" (those imposed on tobacco and alcohol) would reach P15 billion a year, not P17.5 billion as earlier projected by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

In his report to the Senate, Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said the cumulative annual incremental revenue from 2005 to 2011 would be P125.908 billion, broken down as follows: cigarettes, P69.027 billion; fermented liquor, P45.672 billion, and distilled spirits, P11.210 billion.

Seventeen senators adopted the bicameral committee report. Only Senators Jamby Madrigal and Alfredo Lim—who earlier

GMA/ A8

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

ORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered ainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy kies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

OMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/17/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

# 20-day holiday truce is on

By Christian V. Esguerra

**VEARY soldiers and policemen yesterday welcomed Malacañang's declaration of a 20-day unilateral Christmas ceasefire with communist insurgents.**

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. fren Abu said the ceasefire would llow "government forces and the ebels to be with their families and ved ones during the period."

The ceasefire took effect after idnight yesterday and will run ntil Jan. 5.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's ceasefire declaration came just after the insurgents raided the municipal hall in Caranglan town in Nueva Ecija late Wednesday and carted off five M16 rifles, police cell phones and vehicles, a military report said. (See story on page A17.)

Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay said the country's 115,000-strong police force will strictly observe the suspension of police and military operations nationwide.

But Abu said the military would not hesitate to ask the President to lift the ceasefire if the New People's Army guerrillas continued "to endanger the lives of our people."

There was no immediate reaction from the Communist Party of the Philippines and its 8,000-strong armed wing, the NPA, but in past years the group has called its own ceasefire over the Christmas season.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement the government was expecting the communist leadership to reciprocate "in respect to the essence of the Yuletide season."

He did not mention the latest NPA raids.

Reacting to the raid on the police station, Abu warned he would ask Ms Arroyo to lift the ceasefire if the NPA continued to stage attacks.

He said the truce would allow soldiers to spend the holidays with their loved ones.

"The opportunity to be with their families will grant the rebels ample time to reflect on the possibility of embracing the government's call for unity and reconciliation and a chance to permanently enjoy a more peaceful life," Abu said in a statement.

But the military stressed that despite the ceasefire, the Armed Forces would remain on alert to thwart any major attacks expected as the CPP marks its 36th anniversary on Dec. 26.

The government already has a ceasefire in place with the main Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, as part of a peace process with the rebels.

Administration Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Lakas, Cebu City) yesterday called on the communist insurgents to match the President's declaration of a Christmas ceasefire.

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said that a temporary cessation of hostilities would allow the two sides to explore the possibility of resuming peace negotiations. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and AFP*

CPW CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Private Sector

**A Message to Our Consumers - Part 4**

**As we have said, we will demand full disclosure and transparency in all NEW infrastructure projects and on public utilities. This is to prevent a repetition of the sins of the past. In this light, may we inform you of our progress on the following projects:**

**OIL PRICE ROLLBACK**

- The two oil refiners, Shell and Petron, should rollback this week the price of gasoline by 98 centavos and diesel by 92 centavos.
- The rollback is because of the drop in world prices in November from October by $2.67 for Dubai crude, $2.28 for MOPS (Singapore) gasoline and $1.70 for diesel.
- Despite OPEC's decision to reduce production by one million barrels a day, oil prices went down between November and December 1-12 by $1.32 for Dubai crude, $6.63 for MOPS gasoline and $5.90 for diesel.
- The total decrease in world prices from November 1 to December 12 is a STAGGERING $3.39 for Dubai crude, $8.91 for MOPS gasoline and $7.60 for diesel.
- The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) supports Energy Secretary Vince Perez in seeking a review of the Oil Deregulation Law to prevent abuses in pricing.
- However, the COPW wants an independent body composed of members from the academe and economists. Their recommendations should be submitted to the Department of Energy and the Office of the President.

**PETROLEUM TAXES – A "TRIPLE WHAMMY"**

- Three tax measures (higher tariff from 3% to 5%, an additional P2 excise tax, and higher VAT from 10% to 12%) on petroleum products will be a triple whammy against the people. Their proponents equate petroleum products, which are basic and essential consumer items, on the same level as sin products like cigarette and liquor.
- Taxing petroleum products is highly inflationary and has a domino effect on prices of basic commodities, electricity, transport fares, wages, shipping and trucking charges.

The COPW believes only the excise tax on petroleum products should be increased. We are not in favor of a higher VAT and higher duty on petroleum products.

**PROPOSAL ON THE NAPOCOR (NPC) RATE INCREASE**

- We support an increase in the generation charge that will give NPC a break even rate of return but not an 8% RORB.
- We support that the ERC allow the NPC to recover the P8 billion revenue loss it incurred from October to December when the ERC issued a provisional authority of 98 centavos instead of the original P1.87 petition.
- We will only support a third rate increase that will provide NPC an 8% RORB when the following conditions have been met:

1. With the National Government assuming the P200 billion debt of the NPC, PSALM must present the remaining debt that it will assume when the following have been sold: a) proceeds from the sale of the GenCo assets, & b) proceeds from the sale of TransCo.
2. TransCo, which is the crown jewel of NAPOCOR earned P15.3 billion or a rate of return of 16.6% RORB based on its 2003 financial statements.
3. TransCo is being sold by PSALM for an estimated $2 billion and will require the concessionaire to pay only 25% upon closing of the transaction.
   - As an incentive to investors, it will allow payment of the balance in installment over a 25-year period.
   - The concession agreement will be for a 25-year period renewable for another 25 years.
   - With such a high return and very little equity requirement, the Government must consider making TransCO an independent corporation managed by professionals and offered up to 49% of the shares to OFW's and local investors to make it attractive to foreign investors.

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# 5 in GenSan blast arrested

By Christian V. Esguerra

FIVE persons, including two women, were arrested Wednesday in connection with the bombing of a public market in General Santos City that killed 16 people and wounded 70 others last Sunday.

The death toll rose to 16 from 15 with the death of another victim on Wednesday afternoon.

Gensan City Social Welfare chief Rebecca Magante identified the latest fatality as 17-year-old Precious Galo, who died in the hospital where she was being treated for shrapnel wounds.

Armed with a search and seizure order, a joint police and military task force raided the house of Hadja Norma Facturan in Barangay Labangal, General Santos, at around 3 p.m.

Aside from Facturan, arrested were Connie Formentira; Sali Tasil, alias Salili; Karias Kamad, alias Elias Kamad, and Roland Samuel, alias Allan, according to a Philippine National Police report.

Recovered from the suspects were a 60-mm mortar shell, a fragmentation grenade, detonating cords and a pack of C4 plastic explosives, the report said.

## Empty-handed

The day before, authorities raided the Muslim Lodge in Barangay Dadiangas South to arrest the two primary suspects in the explosion, one of whom was identified only as Commander Jack, believed to be the guy who left the bomb in the meat section of the public market. The GenSan police came up empty-handed, however.

Beyond the PNP report, police and military officials yesterday were tight-lipped on the progress of the investigation.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu refused to say if the five suspects were affiliated with the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, or with either of the feuding factions of market vendors.

"We're still not definite," Abu told reporters. "There's still an ongoing investigation."

PNP Task Force Miko (named after the 5-year-old child who died in the blast), backed by seven forensic experts from the Australian Federal Police, conducted a "final quadrant search" last Wednesday at the blast scene.

Found were a three-inch length of red wire, a deformed nine-volt dry cell battery, pieces of cast iron believed to have been the bomb's metal casing, and shards of hard plastic.

Central Mindanao police director Chief Supt. Antonio Billones said the Australians joined the probe to find out if the bomb used was similar to the ones that blew up two nightclubs in Bali, Indonesia, in 2000 killing more than 200 people, most of them Australian tourists.

"They will be staying here for about three days to help our police investigators," Billones said.

The MILF has formed a team to help authorities investigate the bombing.

## MILF link

Police and military probers said they were looking at several angles in the attack, including the involvement of some MILF rebels out to exact revenge for the recent killing of one of their leaders.

The military also floated the theory the explosion was the handiwork of local terrorists allied with the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Indonesia-based group responsible for the Bali explosions.

But Mohaqher Iqbal, chair of the MILF information committee, said his group "stands behind every conscience-guided individual, group or organization in denouncing this latest carnage that dehumanizes human life and dignity.

"We want to reach out to the government, especially the police and military, as partners to the peace process, not to make hasty conclusions or wild speculations," Iqbal said in a statement. *With Aquiles Z. Zonio, Edwin O. Fernandez and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# *Britons warned anew against travel to South*

By TJ Burgonio

THE UNITED Kingdom has cautioned anew its citizens against traveling to some parts of Mindanao in the wake of last Sunday's bomb explosion at a public market that killed 15 persons and wounded more than 50 others.

In its latest bulletin, the British government advised against "all travel" to central, southern and western Mindanao, particularly Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu, where bombings had taken place and operations against terrorists and kidnappers were continuing.

"You should take particular care in the rest of Mindanao, Manila, Palawan and at coastal resorts and tourist centers throughout the Philippines," the government added in its travel advisory, issued two days after the attack.

A bomb explosion ripped through the meat section of the public market on Sunday afternoon, killing 13 and wounding 53 others. Two others died later while being treated at a hospital.

Local authorities were eyeing the Abu Sayyaf as the brains behind the attack, but did not rule out the possibility that this was an offshoot of a feud among merchants.

There had been intelligence reports that the gang, suspected of having ties with al-Qaida and mounting bomb attacks in some parts of Mindanao in the past was planning to bomb the city.

Two days before the attack, the national police announced that security would be tightened in Metro Manila throughout the holiday season.

"There continues to be threats against Western interests and there is a danger of being caught up in a terrorist attack," the government said even as it noted that the Abu Sayyaf, communist rebels and secessionist guerrillas remained active.

On Jan. 4, a bomb exploded at a sports hall in Parang, in Lanao del Sur, killing 22 people. Then on Feb. 27, a fire, triggered by a bomb explosion, hit a Superferry en route to Mindanao from Manila, killing more than 100 passengers.

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# Justice in Erap case appointed Sandigan chief

By Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG has elevated Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro to the post of presiding justice of the anti-graft court.

Colleagues and prosecution and defense lawyers congratulated De Castro on her appointment during yesterday's hearing of the plunder case against ousted President Estrada.

De Castro, who twice voted to allow Estrada to travel abroad for a knee-replacement operation was chosen over acting Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval, the most senior member of the Sandiganbayan, who twice voted against allowing Estrada to go abroad for treatment.

"I think she deserves it," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio of De Castro's appointment.

He said De Castro's good "record, integrity and court decorum makes her a very suitable justice of the Sandiganbayan."

Estrada's lawyer Jose Flaminiano also welcomed De Castro's appointment even as he dismissed speculations that she is perceived as friendly to Estrada.

Such talks were fueled by De Castro's efforts to be "correct" in her decisions, Flaminiano said.

De Castro, a known protégé of the Sandiganbayan's former Presiding Justice and now Supreme Court Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, voted in favor of the controversial Dec. 23 decision allowing Estrada to go to the US for an operation.

Estrada had to forego the US trip when he failed to get a US visa, prompting him to again ask the court this year for permission to go to Hong Kong for the operation, which the court granted on Dec. 1.

De Castro voted to approve both petitions for "humanitarian considerations." She gave credence to the claim of Estrada's doctors that he faced possible paralysis from the waist down without the operation.

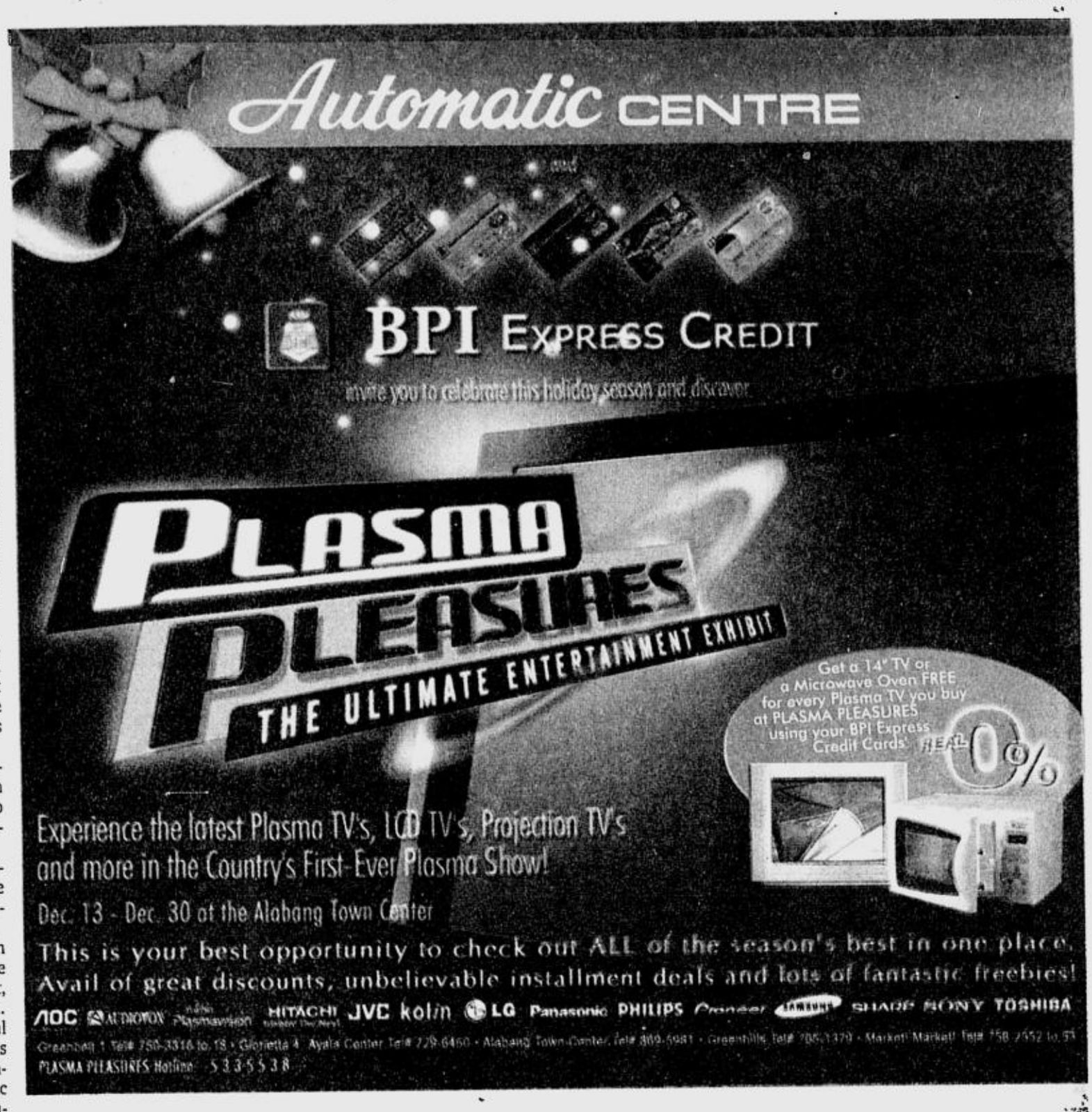
Sandoval voted against both resolutions, warning that Estrada remained a flight risk and that the decision could open the floodgates for other prisoners wanting similar treatment.

Sandoval was absent in yesterday's hearing on Estrada's petition asking the court to be allowed to attend the burial of his friend Fernando Poe Jr. on Dec. 22.

De Castro, a cum laude graduate from the University of the Philippines, has been in government service for 31 years.

She started out as a law clerk in the Supreme Court in 1973. She moved to the justice department, becoming chief of its legal division.

De Castro was also the legal adviser of the government panels in the peace talks with the communist National Democratic Front and the separatist Moro National Liberation Front in 1997.




# DOJ on new Nida witness: 'Explosive'

By Philip C. Tubeza

EXPLOSIVE.

This was how Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez described the testimony of a possible new witness in the brutal murder of actress Nida Blanca.

Gonzalez said he was even willing to send the witness to the United States so she could testify once the government files its second extradition request against Rod Lauren Strunk, the principal suspect in the case.

The justice secretary said he had personally talked to the witness twice and he was convinced that she would "withstand cross examination."

"It's explosive," Gonzalez said referring to the testimony of the witness. "This witness will break the case wide open."

The witness, whom Gonzalez described as a "hospitality girl," allegedly saw Strunk and another person transfer an "unconscious" Blanca from a van into her car, a Nissan Sentra.

Blanca, Dorothy Jones in real life, was found dead with multiple stab wounds in her body inside her car at the Atlanta Centre building in San Juan on Nov. 7, 2001.

"Her testimony is very positive. It's about 95 percent sure that she is willing to testify," Gonzalez said.

The witness has yet to execute a sworn affidavit, according to Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said that once she agrees, the woman would be interrogated by National Bureau of Investigation agents and placed under the Witness Protection Program.

"If necessary, I will send her to the (United) States to testify in Strunk's extradition," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez earlier admitted that the government's evidence in the murder case were only circumstantial and this would further delay the filing of a second extradition petition against Strunk.

The government has charged Strunk and Philip Medel Jr. for the killing.

Strunk left the country on Jan. 21, 2002 to attend to his ailing mother in California. He had since refused to go back to the Philippines, saying he would not get a fair trial here.

# Long Christmas break declared

FILIPINOS will enjoy a long Christmas break after President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared Dec. 24, a Friday, and Dec. 27, a Monday, as special non-working days throughout the country.

In Proclamation Order 750 issued yesterday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the special days would be in addition to Dec. 25, Dec. 30 (Rizal Day) and Jan. 1 which are regular holidays and Dec. 31, last day of the year which is a special holiday.

This leaves only two days for work in the week leading to New Year.

## Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a photo caption on Page A13 erroneously identified the person standing next to San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and his wife Gretchen at Fernando Poe Jr.'s wake at the Sto. Domingo Church on Wednesday as Noel Trinidad, the actor. The man was SMC vice chair and president Ramon Ang.

* * *

IN THE DEC. 15 issue, a caption of a front-page photo of the Banco de Oro bank robbery in Valenzuela City misstated that the city was part of Bulacan. Valenzuela was made part of Metro Manila on Nov. 7, 1975, by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 824. It became a city on Feb. 14, 1998, by virtue of Republic Act No. 8526.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

*Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.*

# *All systems go for Erap surgery in HK*

**By Armand Nocum**

IT'S ALL systems go for ousted President Joseph Estrada's trip to Hong Kong to undergo knee surgery after the Sandiganbayan yesterday rejected the prosecution's motion for reconsideration.

With the issue of the trip resolved, the court has one more issue to tackle—whether or not to grant Estrada's new desired departure date of Dec. 23.

Again voting 4-1, the Sandiganbayan said the prosecution not only failed to present new arguments but also used "contemptuous language" when it accused the antigraft court of making itself "subordinate to the prerogative of the surgeon to decide where to perform the surgery."

The prosecution had made the statement after the court said in its resolution of Dec. 1 that it recognized Estrada's right to undergo surgery by a doctor of his choice.

Estrada wants his American doctor, Christopher Mow, to perform the operation at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital late this month.

"The prosecution should have submitted substantial arguments that would persuade this court that the doctor of choice does not have the prerogative to decide where to perform the surgery. This the prosecution failed to do. Instead, the prosecution resorted to finger-pointing," the court said.

The resolution was signed by Associate Justices Teresita J. Leonardo de Castro, Francisco Villaruz Jr., Efren N. de la Cruz and Teresita V. Diaz-Baldos.

Outgoing Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval voted to grant the prosecution's motion for reconsideration.

ESTRADA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# Court OKs Erap visit to FPJ wake but not burial

From page A1

gust 1983 burial of the assassinated opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was peaceful and orderly.

But at yesterday's hearing, Associate Justice Francisco Villaluz Jr. of the Sandiganbayan Special Division warned that Estrada's presence at the wake would present a "security nightmare" for the Philippine National Police.

"We must remember that he is under the custody of the state, and anything [untoward] that may happen to him [will be blamed on the state]," Villaluz said.

In view of the security concerns, Saguisag said the Estrada camp had agreed to "submit to the discretion of the honorable court."

### Discipline

Estrada lawyer Jose Flaminiano pointed out that he had been to the wake at Sto. Domingo Church, and the people there were "disciplined."

"There was no pushing and shoving," he said by way of rebutting the concern that the Poe family would not be able to control the crowd that had earlier torn apart the wreaths sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

But Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio cited reports that 13 people were injured when Poe fans tried to scale the church gates on Wednesday night.

"The crowd was not even big," Villa-Ignacio told the court. "Let's imagine a scenario [with] about 200,000 or more people attending the burial."

Villaluz agreed, saying the situation at the wake would be far different from that at the North Cemetery, where Poe's parents and brother are buried.

"We cannot compare the Sto. Domingo area to the funeral site," he said.

### Destabilization

Villa-Ignacio stressed that he was not opposed to Estrada attending the wake. He said his only concern was that the PNP might not be able to provide sufficient security for the ex-President given the huge crowd expected to turn up for the burial.

He voiced fears that some groups might "take advantage of the situation to sow a destabilization scenario."

In an interview after the hearing, Villa-Ignacio said it would be better if Estrada did not attend the funeral "lest people create trouble or harm him—and the government will be blamed for it.

"Let's not forget that he's still under the custody and responsibility of the state, and it's the duty of the state to ensure his safety," he said.

Estrada had also asked that the Sandiganbayan allow him to stay at his mother's house until his departure for Hong Kong on Dec. 23. But the court decided not to touch on the issue pending its resolution of Estrada's motion to travel to Hong Kong on that date. *(See box.) With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria*

# Cigarette ...

From page A1

ber her for her smoking because the first thing she asked when she got up was 'Can I have a cigarette,'" said matron Maria Kallis, who commissioned a large wreath in the shape of a cigarette, made with white and yellow chrysanthemums, for the spinster's coffin.

### Enigmatic

The enigmatic Ellis, an ex-typist, arrived at the nursing home 15 years ago.

Apart from her habit of smoking 15 cigarettes daily, she was also notorious among staff for her unhealthy eating habits, often asking for sugar in her soup and always demanding three sugars in her coffee. *Reuters*

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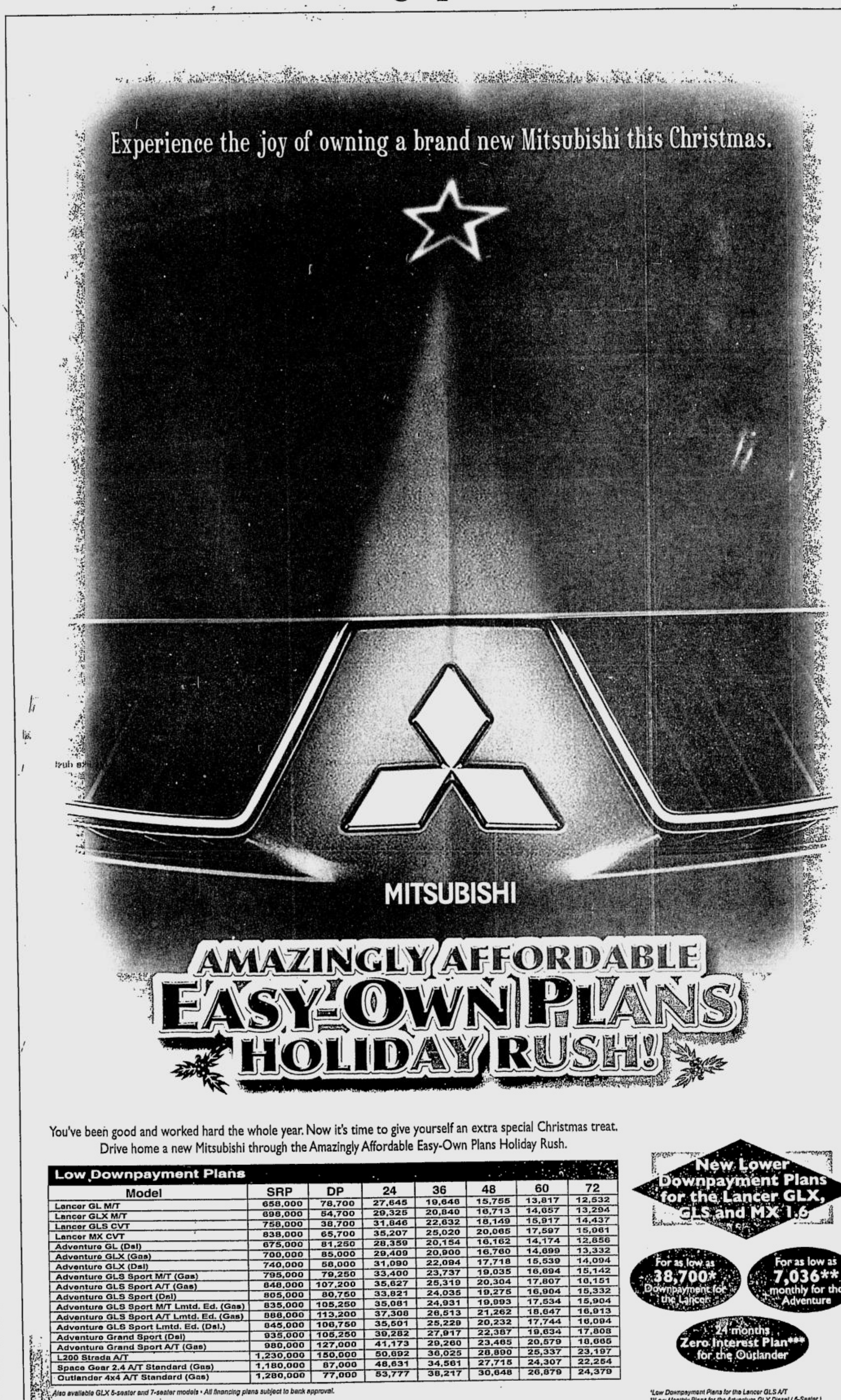
# Press freedom comes at high price for endangered RP journalists




THE PHILIPPINES likes to boast that since the downfall of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 the country has the freest press in Asia. But with 13 journalists murdered this year, freedom has come at a high price for the fourth estate.

In 2004 the Philippines earned the distinction of having more journalists killed than any other country in the world with the exception of Iraq, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists and the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders.

Since democracy was restored nearly 19 years ago, 61 journalists have been murdered in the Philippines, almost twice the number slain during the two decades of Marcos rule.

Of that 61 not one individual has yet to stand trial for any of the murders.

"On paper the numbers look pretty bad," Carlos Conde, secretary general of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, told AFP.

"But there are a confluence of factors at play here.

"Most of the journalists murdered here have been killed outside of the capital, Manila.

"Once your move outside Manila everything changes. What you and I take as being normal disappears.

"In many parts of the country it is almost feudal with warlords controlling everything from drugs and gambling to illegal logging.

## Sad fact

"Against this background it is a very brave journalist who speaks out against these sorts of people and their activities.

"Those that do set themselves up to be killed and that is the sad fact of life."

Luis Teodoro, former dean of the University of the Philippines' College of Mass Communication, said in a recent interview that: "It's not that Filipinos are any more unfriendly to journalists than in other parts of the world.

"It's a cultural thing. At the local level, the justice system is weak. Prosecutors might be afraid. Or they may be acting on behalf of powerful people. There have been many cases of police collusion. And there are a lot of loose, unlicensed guns in the Philippines.

"Non-functioning courts, corrupt and incompetent police, local interest, drug lords, gambling lords, lack of ethics. It's a lethal combination.

"There's little respect for the law. Some politician might say, 'I've been offended. Why waste time going to court? I'll just shoot the son of a bitch.'"

Many of the journalists killed have been radio commentators or local radio journalists.

"Just listen to some of the provincial radio stations of a morning and hear what those guys are saying. I am constantly amazed at the abuse they dish-out," Conde said.

"Manila politics is so far removed from the politics of the rest of the country. There is no comparison. *AFP*

# 2 coal miners rescued

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two of six miners trapped in Tuesday's collapse of a coal mine in Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay, have been rescued after more than 30 hours underground while their four colleagues died.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Western Mindanao Area Police Office commander, identified the two miners as Roger Lawan Jr., 20, and Antonio Torres, 39.

"The only things that helped us were our prayers, the water that was sipping in and our urine," Lawan told a local television station here.

On Tuesday evening, the bodies of Prudencio Martinez and Felix Limbaro were recovered by a search and rescue team organized by the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), operator of the mine.

Querol said the survivors confirmed that their two other colleagues had died after they were buried by boulders on Tuesday.

The bodies of Leo Ricaforte and Daniel Catamco had yet to be recovered, however.

Earlier, it was reported that all the miners had died when the portal of the shaft collapsed as they were descending 57 feet below ground.

Authorities said the mine shaft collapsed because of loose soil. The mining project is a joint undertaking of the PNOC and Taiwan Overseas Mining Corp.

Danilo Gacutan, PNOC operations officer in Diplahan, said the rescue operation was continued even after it was believed that all the miners had died after the rescue team noticed some movement and heard noises.

"Somebody from inside the rubble was trying to pull the hose of the compressor used for breathing," Gacutan said.

Other rescuers reported hearing metallic sounds coming from the tunnel. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Pagasa to issue gale warnings

**By Norman Bordadora**

THE PHILIPPINE Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration yesterday started its gale warning system to warn small fishing operators and inter-island shippers on the sudden rise of coastal waters as a result of weather disturbances other than tropical cyclones.

Pagasa came up with the first gale warning and incorporated it with the severe weather bulletin on tropical storm "Zosimo" (international code name: Talas). Zosimo has entered the Philippine area of responsibility but was still too far to affect the archipelago, according to a weather bulletin issued at 10:45 a.m. yesterday.

Gale warnings will be issued during forecast severe weather conditions expected to cause gales with wind strength of at least 34 knots or 64 kph within the Philippine seas.

"This is intended for strong winds generating high waves associated not only with weather disturbances but also with the monsoons-southeast and northwest," said Pagasa officer in charge Dr. Prisco Nilo.

"It is intended not only for small fishermen but also for small vessels carrying up to 60 people," Nilo said. He said huge shipping vessels were not usually affected by gales.

Pagasa came up with the gale warning system in response to growing concerns on sea safety during impending threats of strong winds and high waves associated with the monsoons, low pressure areas, the inter-tropical convergence zone, squalls, severe thunderstorms and other intense weather systems besides cyclones.

Gale warnings will be issued twice a day at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. and will be regularly disseminated through fax or e-mail to shipping companies and other interested parties.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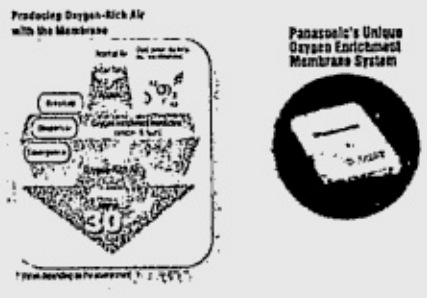


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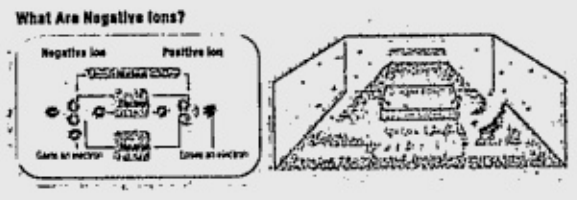


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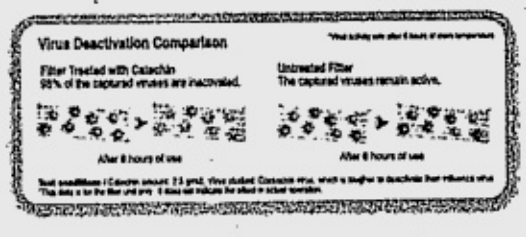


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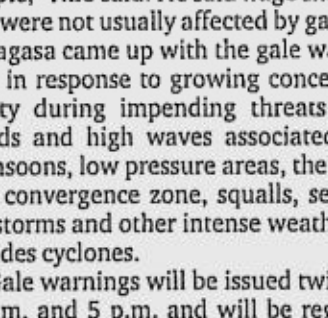

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# GMA to sign 'sin tax' bill into law before Christmas

From page A1

voted against Senate Bill No. 1815, which sought a tax take of more than double the House version—voted against the bicameral committee report.

## First, most important

Bunye said the passage of the "sin tax" bill would lead to a rosier fiscal outlook.

"We have overcome the first and most important hurdle in the train of vital revenue measures. The approval of the tax on cigarettes and alcohol certainly brightens the outlook on our fiscal situation," Bunye said.

Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima, in a text message to the INQUIRER, said the increased proceeds from the sin taxes would further narrow down the government's projected deficit for next year.

For alcohol, the new excise tax rates are as follows:

- Sparkling wines and champagne regardless of proof, P145.60 per bottle (net retail price or NRP, of P500 or less); and P436.80 per bottle (NRP of P500 or more).
- Still wines containing 14 percent alcohol by volume or less, P17.47 per bottle.
- Still wines containing more than 14 percent to 25 percent alcohol by volume or less, P34.94.
- Still wines containing more than 25 percent alcohol by volume will be taxed as distilled spirits.

For distilled spirits:

- P11.65 per proof liter (made from the sap of *nipa*, coconut, cassava, *camote* or *buri* palm or from the juice, syrup or sugarcane).
- Those made from other raw materials will pay P126 to P504 per proof liter, depending on the NRP.

For fermented liquor (beer, lager beer, ale, porter and other fermented liquors except *tuba*, *basi*, *tapuy* and similar fermented liquors), the excise tax ranges from P8.27 to P16.33.

## Rates for tobacco

For tobacco products, the new excise taxes are:

- P1 for tobacco (twisted by hand, partially prepared, stemmed-leaf tobacco) and P0.79 per kilogram of tobacco intended for chewing.
- For cigars and cigarettes, a 10-percent increase for those sold at P500 or less, and P50 plus 15 percent for those sold above P500.
- Cigarettes packed by hand, adjusted every two years by 3.6 percent plus 16 centavos (or a P2 increase in 2005, P2.23 in 2007, P2.47 in 2009 and P2.72 in 2011).
- Cigarettes packed by machine, adjusted every two years (same rate for low-tier brands), but for medium, P6.35 to P7.56; for high, P10.35 to P12, and for premium, P25 to P28.30.

The bill also lifted the excise tax exemptions of duty-free tobacco and alcohol products, and funded health programs—2.5 percent of the total revenue take goes directly to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and 2.5 percent to the account of the Department of Health.

Forty percent will go to local government units in the form of internal revenue allotment.

Villar said only about 55 percent of the total tax take would go to the national coffers because the rest would fund health programs addressing diseases caused by smoking and drinking.

"Only 55 percent will address the fiscal deficit. At best, this is the first step, the beginning. We have to view this as only the start of a long journey ahead of us," he said.

## Effective after holidays

The higher prices of cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol products—including the season's favorites, wines—brought about by the increased excise taxes will be effective after the holiday season, Recto said.

Recto said that it was mandatory for any new measure to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within 15 days from the time the President signs it into law.

"So let's be happy this Christmas because by January, we have to spend some more," he said.

With the sin tax problem over, Malacañang is not keen on pushing for the passage before the end of the year of the other seven measures proposed by the President, although the House of Representatives had already passed the bills on lateral attrition, tax amnesty and rationalization of fiscal incentives.

## P5-B new revenues

On Wednesday night, the House of Representatives approved on second reading the proposed "Rationalization of Fiscal Incentives" bill.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he was optimistic that the enactment of House Bill No. 3295 would result in at least P5 billion in new revenues for the government. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and AFP*

# SC orders gov't to return Journal group of newspapers to owners

From page A1

ple's Tonight and Taliba, and the magazines Insider and Women's Journal Magazine, which reportedly have combined physical assets worth P200 million. The group employs 389 people.

In a six-page resolution on Tuesday, the tribunal ordered the Assets Privatization Trust to return the publishing firm to former PJI president Rosario Olivares and other stockholders after payment of the P33.36 million that PJI still owes the government.

Besides Olivares, the other stockholders of PJI when it was taken over by the government in 1986 were Augusto "Gus" Villanueva (then editor of People's Journal), Jose Luna Castro, Manuel Salak Jr., Alex Maramag and Domingo Flores. Luna, Salak, Maramag and Flores are all dead.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered all the shares of stock of PJI private shareholders on Feb. 19, 1987 and April 28, 1987 on the grounds that these shares allegedly constituted ill-gotten wealth of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, brother of Imelda Marcos.

"[Upon full payment, the government] is directed to immediately turn over the management and control of PJI to private respondent and/or her representatives and/or other stockholders of record of PJI," the resolution said.

Once the debt is fully paid, the deed of chattel mortgage executed by PJI in favor of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the deed of assignment of voting shares signed on June 17, 1977, and the supplement to the deed of assignment signed on Jan. 16, 1979 are "automatically cancelled," the court said.

## Palace abides by decision

Malacañang yesterday said it would abide by the decision of the Supreme Court.

"That has been adjudicated for a long time. We accept the decision of the high court," Presidential Communications Adviser Silvestre Afable III said in a phone interview.

Afable, who heads the Office of Communications Director that oversees all government information offices, said the administration's privatization thrust also applied to the media.

He said the return of the Journal Group to the group of stockholders would not affect the dissemination of President Macapagal-Arroyo's policies and programs.

"We can do that even with the private media," he said.

But Roberto "Bobby" Capco, publisher of People's Journal and chair of PJI, was non-committal on the decision.

"I will do whatever the President tells me to do," Capco said in a phone interview, but he said he had not yet received any instructions from the President.

He said the decision would be made by Malacañang officials, including Secretary Cerge Remonde, head of the OCD's government media group. The Inquirer called up Remonde four times but he did not take the calls.


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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# US missile defense plan ends in failure

**WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's drive to deploy a multibillion-dollar shield against ballistic missiles was set back on Wednesday by what critics called a stunning failure of its first full flight test in two years.**

The abortive $85 million exercise raised fresh questions about the reliability of the first elements of the plan, an heir to former president Ronald Reagan's vision of an space-based missile defense that critics dubbed "Star Wars."

The interceptor missile never left its silo at Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, shutting itself down automatically because of an "anomaly" of unknown origin, the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency said.

About 16 minutes earlier, a target missile had been fired from Kodiak, Alaska, in what was to have been a fly-by test chiefly designed to gather data on new hardware, software and engagement angles, said Richard Lehner, a spokesperson.

For instance, a booster built by Orbital Sciences Corp. was to have been exercised for the first time in the way it would actually be fielded. One of the test's goals was to show it was ready for production.

"Obviously it isn't," said Philip Coyle, who was the Pentagon's chief weapons tester under President Bill Clinton, "and now they also will have to fix the boosters that have been installed in silos in Alaska and Vandenberg" Air Force Base, California.

The Pentagon plans to spend more than $50 billion over the next five years on all aspects of missile defense, aiming to weave in airborne, ship- and space-based assets. The system that failed on Wednesday is know as the ground-based midcourse system, or GMD. By some estimates, the Pentagon has already spent $130 billion on missile defense efforts.

Despite widespread doubts among physicists about the technical readiness of the system, Bush had sought to have a rudimentary capability against North Korean missiles on alert by the end of this month.

"We say to those tyrants who believe they can blackmail America and the free world—you fire, we're going to shoot it down," he said at a campaign stop in Ridley, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 17.

But all eight of the system's intercept tests, the last of which failed in December 2002, have fallen far short of replicating realistic war scenarios, experts inside and outside the government have said. Of the total, five have succeeded in highly scripted conditions, never at night or in severe weather.

Coyle described as wrongheaded any decision to declare the system operational despite the latest failure.

"Premature declaration of operational status could mislead the Congress and US taxpayers that they are being protected by the GMD system, when they are not," he said in an e-mail.

To develop the system, the Missile Defense Agency has planned 20 or 30 more flight intercept tests, each different from the next, before it will be ready for "realistic operational testing," Coyle said. *Reuters*

## Bush warns Iran, Syria to stop 'meddling' in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Campaigning for the first post-Saddam Hussein elections in Iraq was underway on Thursday after US President George W. Bush warned neighboring Iran and Syria to stop "meddling" in the country's affairs.

BUSH

And a powerful blast outside a revered Shiite shrine in Iraq that killed seven people late Wednesday fanned fears of sectarian violence in the run-up to the Jan. 30 elections.

"We will continue to make it clear, to both Syria and Iran, that—as will other nations in our coalition, including our friends the Italians—that meddling in the internal affairs of Iraq is not in their interest," Bush said in Washington after meeting Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

His comments came after Iraq's Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan accused those two countries of orchestrating terrorist attacks, branding Tehran in particular the "most dangerous enemy of Iraq."

The deputy commander of the US Central Command Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, however, said the extent of either country's activities was unclear because "our intelligence functions on that side of the border are very, very difficult."

Iraqi authorities and US-led forces are battling to flatten Iraq's deadly insurgency ahead of the first multiparty polls in the country in half a century.

Violence continued to rock Iraq as a bomb blast outside one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines in the central city of Karbala killed at least seven people and wounded 32, in an apparent attempt to fan intercommunal tensions.

Sheikh Abdel Mehdi Karbalai, the local representative of Shiite spiritual leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, was in intensive care after the bombing outside the Imam Hussein mausoleum, a senior medic said.

And early Thursday the director of Iraq's state-run telecommunications company and a bodyguard were killed by armed men as he was leaving his home in Baghdad, the communications ministry said.

Senior officials working for the Iraqi interim government have been the target of numerous attacks by insurgents.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi was among more than 5,000 hopefuls to register for landmark elections by Wednesday's deadline, with a total of 83 separate candidate lists registered. *AFP*

## Pakistan, India agree to start nuclear hotline

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan and India agreed to push forward plans for a nuclear hotline after two days of talks but failed to reach a deal on advance warning of ballistic missile tests, officials said Wednesday.

The South Asian rivals said they would "operationalize... as soon as possible" the hotline between their foreign secretaries, which had been agreed on in principle at earlier talks in June.

However, the meetings on so-called confidence-building measures did not produce an accord on giving each other prior notification of missile test-fires, officials said.

Both sides insisted they had made progress during the meetings between senior officials in Islamabad, which are the latest stage in a step-by-step peace process begun in January.

"We have agreed to operationalize it as soon as possible," Tariq Osman Hyder, additional secretary at Pakistan's foreign ministry, who led Pakistan's delegation told reporters when asked about the hotline.

The results of the talks would be submitted to the Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries, who are scheduled to meet on 27-28 December, according to a joint statement issued by the two parties.

When pressed why the talks had failed to produce both agreements as had been predicted by officials earlier, the two sides blamed the "complex" issues involved. *AFP*

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# World seeing worst weather, disasters, experts say

BUENOS AIRES—Experts warned on Wednesday that the world is seeing some of its hottest weather and worst natural disaster damage as environment ministers tried to crack US resistance to joining international efforts against global warming.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization said in its annual report that 2004 would be the fourth-hottest since record-keeping began 150 years ago and global warming would continue with more extreme weather like hurricanes or droughts.

Natural disasters will end up costing insurers a record $35 billion this year, after hurricanes lashed the Caribbean and southeastern United States and a record ten typhoons soaked Japan, the UN's Environment Program said.

"It is, I believe, unquestioned that climate change is happening now and it is happening at an even higher speed than we expected before," program director Klaus Toepfer said.

Overall destruction costs in 2004 will surge to $95 billion worldwide compared to an average of $70 billion a year during the last decade.

The alarm bells sounded came as environment ministers from 80 countries met on Wednesday for the final days of a UN conference on climate change.

The conference of nearly 200 nations has turned into a polarized affair, with the European Union and nations supporting the Kyoto protocol to cut greenhouse gases in one camp and the United States, the world's biggest polluter, in the other.

Just two months before Kyoto goes into force thanks to Russia's recent ratification, the United States has made it very clear it will not sign up for Kyoto's mandatory caps on emissions after President George W. Bush withdrew from the agreement in 2001.

The US delegation has also said repeatedly over the last nine days that it is "premature" to negotiate anything for when Kyoto expires in 2012.

That stonewalling has earned the United States few friends at this 10th United Nations meeting, where many of the 6,000 participants wear cords around their necks saying: "No to Bush, Yes to Kyoto."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair will be working to soften Bush on climate change during its G8 presidency next year, but analysts believe he will be unsuccessful.

Although responsible for 25 percent of the world's emissions, the United States rejects legally binding rules that could hurt economic growth.

"The (UN) climate change convention cannot make countries accept approaches that are not consistent with their national circumstances," US head delegate Paula Dobriansky told delegates, adding that she disagreed with its emphasis on "top-down" mandates.

The US position got a boost from Italy in Buenos Aires as it called for an end to the binding agreements of the Kyoto protocol after 2012 in favor of voluntary targets that would entice the United States, China and India.

Kyoto, which will reduce emissions by five percent in industrialized nations, is only a first step and excludes developing countries like China and India, who are already among the top five polluters.

The European Union, the world leader in the fight to cut heat-trapping gases, tried to quell notions of dissent in its ranks.

"What the Italian minister said is quite right. We have to involve the fast-growing developing countries and the United States in the after-2012 regime," said Dutch Environment Minister Pieter van Geel, heading the EU delegation. *Reuters*


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**JAWS ATTACK** A 4.2-meter great white shark leaps from the sea at the appropriately named Dangerous Reef off the northeast coast of Australia, Dec. 15. A pair of great white sharks killed a teenage boy at crowded West Beach in Adelaide, Dec. 16, as his horrified friends looked on, in Australia's second fatal shark attack in five days. AFP

# Japan eyes economic sanctions vs N. Korea

TOKYO—Economic sanctions against North Korea are "one option," but care is needed in deciding whether to take that step, Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said on Thursday, a day after Pyongyang warned Japan that imposing sanctions would be tantamount to war.

Calls are growing from the Japanese public and politicians for the government to impose sanctions on North Korea after Tokyo said bones Pyongyang had identified as those of Japanese it had kidnapped decades ago were from other people.

"Economic sanctions are one option but whether we should exercise that option immediately or not would warrant very careful analysis," Machimura told a news conference.

North Korea warned Japan on Wednesday that it would treat economic sanctions as a "declaration of war" and threatened to try to exclude Tokyo from six-party talks on Pyongyang's nuclear arms programs.

Asked about North Korea's remarks, Machimura said: "Japan has no desire to engage in war with any country and will try to resolve any problems through talks. This is Japan's basic stance, as you well know."

Noting that the United States had imposed sanctions on North Korea but was not at war with the communist country, he said: "I don't think there exists an equation where economic sanctions equal war."

But he added: "We have been taking the approach of pressure and dialogue... and we have conveyed to our counterparts that we have no intention of continuing meaningless dialogue.

"If we see no achievements being made through dialogue, we will not continue on as is." *Reuters*


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❄ Do not overload wall outlets and extension cords. Any excess load might result in heating which could cause fire.

❄ Check new and old sets of Christmas lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or cracked wires and loose connections. Discard damaged sets. Also, check if all lights are securely fastened.

❄ Only use lights and decors designated for outdoor use outside your office and home.

❄ Always unplug Christmas lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.

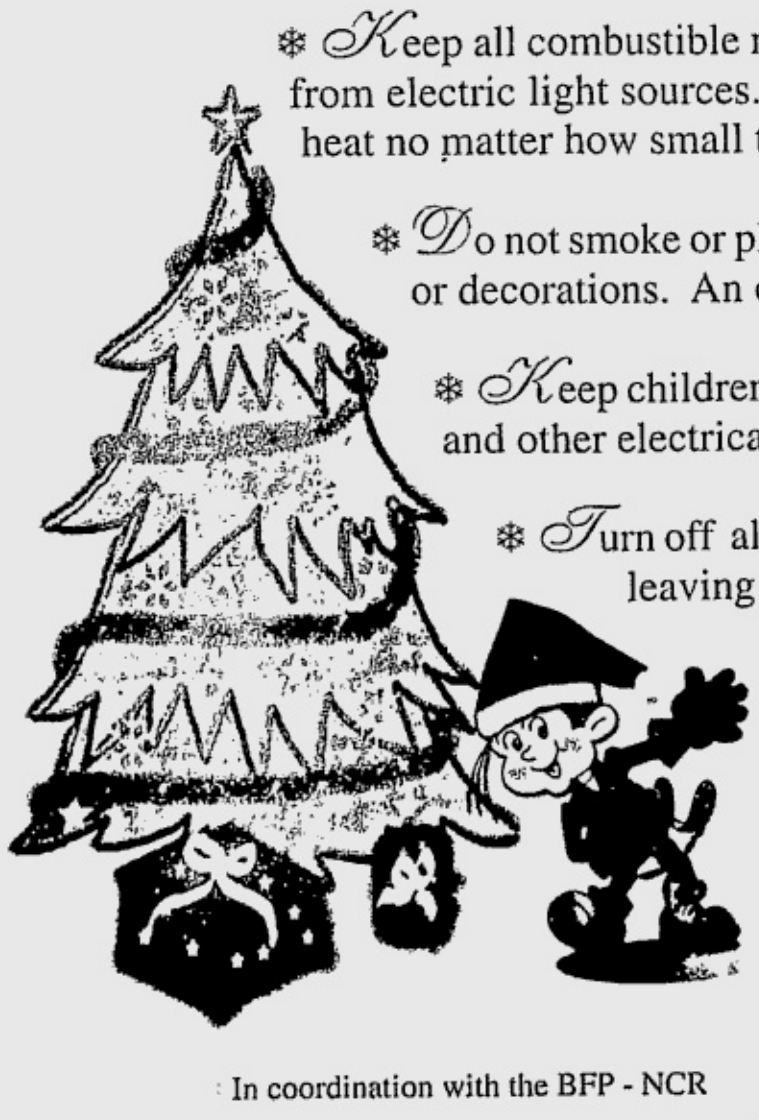
❄ Do not install electrical lights on metallic Christmas trees.

❄ Keep all combustible materials like curtains and carpets away from electric light sources. All incandescent light sources produce heat no matter how small they are and may cause fire.

❄ Do not smoke or place lighted candles near Christmas trees or decorations. An open flame may cause fire.

❄ Keep children at a safe distance from Christmas lights and other electrically operated decorations.

❄ Turn off all Christmas lights and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.



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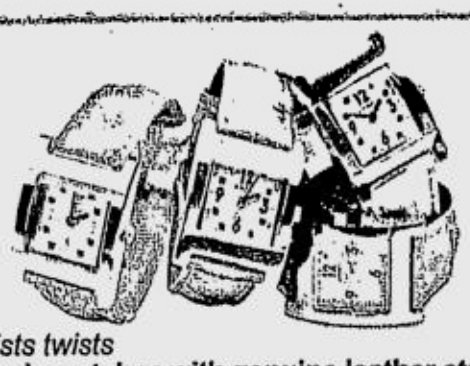
# in style for the season

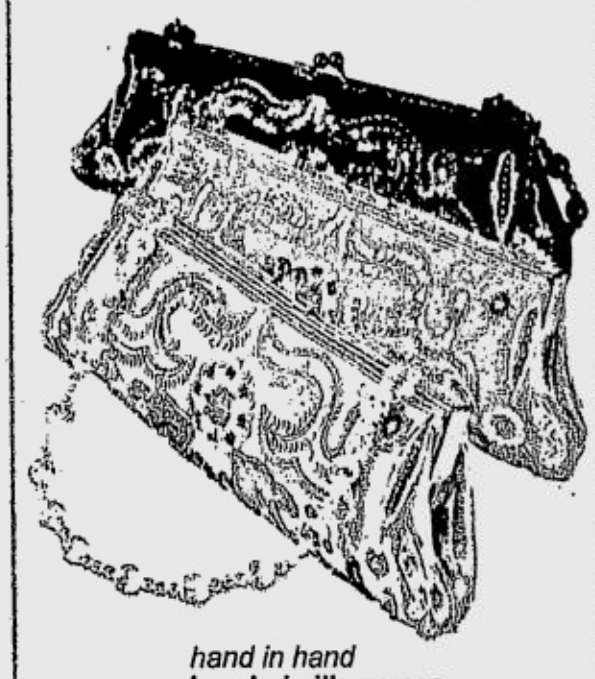


*wrists twists*
**trendy watches with genuine leather straps**

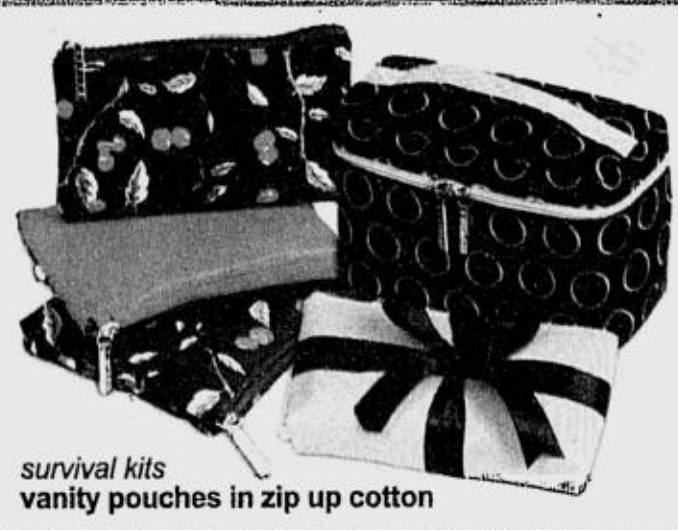
**Lanvin Eclat d' Arpege gift set**

*sparkling choices*
**silver jewelry ensemble with zirconia**

*glam it up*
**haltered chiffon dress with full skirt worn with heeled camel slides**



*hand in hand*
**beaded silk purses**



*survival kits*
**vanity pouches in zip up cotton**

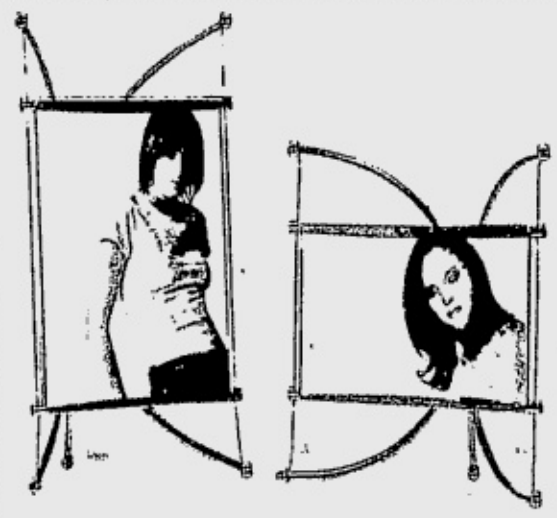
your chr

*your h*

*bags to go*
**faux leather bags in sherbet colors**

*under wraps*
**fringed woven pashmina shawls**

*well heeled*
**dressy two-tone leather slip-ons**



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**acrylic and chrome photo frames**

*tee zone*
**knit tees in pastel shades**

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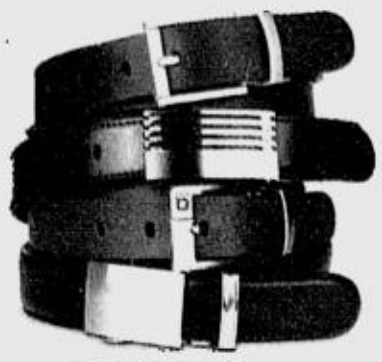
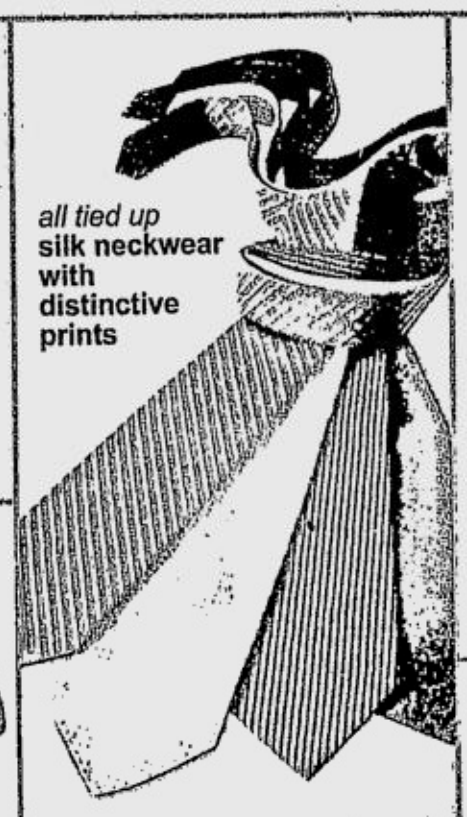
# best look forward



*genuine leather*
**belts with metal buckles**

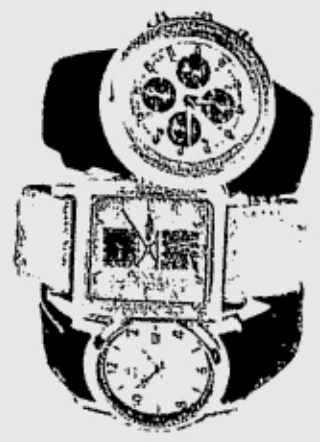


*all tied up*
**silk neckwear with distinctive prints**

*freshen up*
**Issey Miyake eau de toilette**

*pocket partners*
**Pierre Cardin cotton hankies**

*toeing the line*
**fine leather lace-ups and slip-ons**



*in good time*
**wide-banded sports time pieces**

*sun screen*
**hip fashion shades**

*standing tall*
**long-sleeve cotton shirt with matching dark pants, leather shoes**

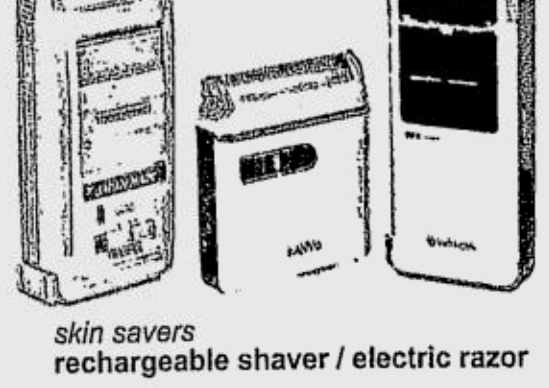
# istmas store

*oliday shopping starts here*

*check it out*
**short-sleeve polo with checkered prints**

*travel mates*
**personal organizers in waterproof nylon**

*going for it*
**Voyager canvas & hardcase travel trolleys**



*skin savers*
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# OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-0808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 520-0213 / Fax: 526-02-34.
•100% soy ink •

*Publisher* ISAGANI YAMBOT
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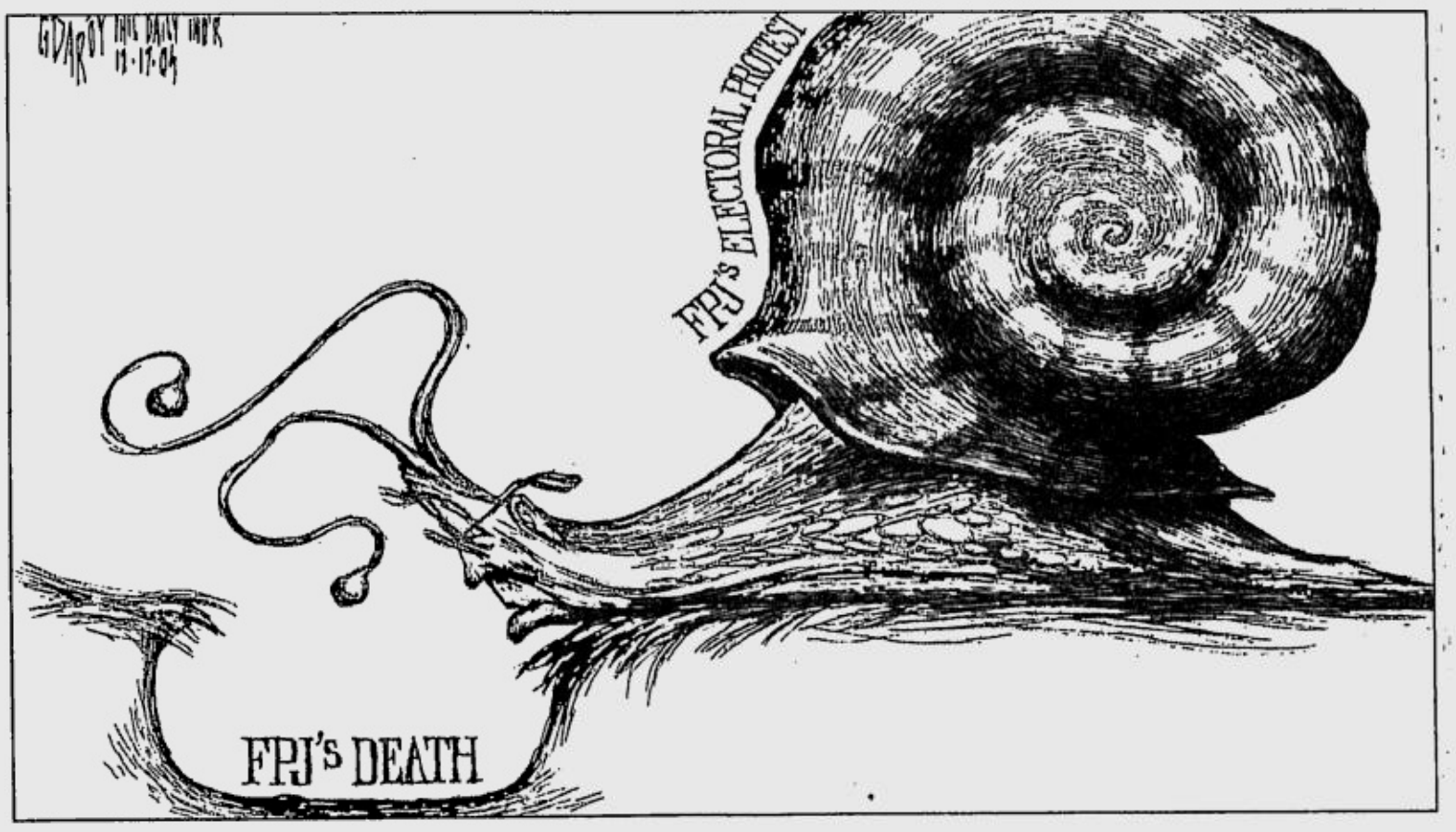



# Politics of grief

IT'S a paradox that in his death, Fernando Poe Jr. has achieved what he sought out to attain in his failed presidential bid: to unite a severely fragmented nation. And it is the paradox of unity that in a people's coming together, politics should debase the national cleansing brought about by a catharsis of grief and sorrow, further causing pockmarks and rifts in the tenuous peace we have built for ourselves in loving deference to a dear departed icon.

**EDITORIAL**

It is saddening that Poe had barely given up his ghost when some of his more rabid supporters and certain sectors of the political opposition that he headed have chosen to profane his memory by bad behavior and tasteless partisan gestures.

At the Santo Domingo Church Tuesday night, some of Poe's fans went berserk upon spotting the funeral wreath sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo. They grabbed the wreath, tore it apart, crushed the flowers, trampled the foliage and cursed the name of the President, accusing her of robbing Poe of his victory last May 10. The show of vehemence and violence was in stark contrast to the solemnity of the surroundings, the national shrine to boot of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. Obviously these people did not know how to respect hallowed ground.

One could ascribe such behavior to raw rage typical of mass hysteria, thus forgivable of people feeling extremes of grief and anger. But what is not forgivable is the politicking of opposition figures who have chosen to ride on the crest of widespread grief over the death in order to boost the fortunes of the opposition and by extension, their political standing.

Foremost among these are Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, Sen. Edgardo Angara and former President Joseph Estrada. Marcos, with her heavily engineered angular chin, has injected a Botox shot of numbing propaganda into the mournful atmosphere by sounding off the possibility that Poe's widow, the well-liked Susan Roces, would take on the mantle left by her husband and head the opposition.

Angara, who perhaps couldn't resist reconnecting with his Marcosian past, said amen to Imee Marcos' Botox-induced ruminations. It is quite a relief that sectors of the opposition have admonished Angara against fueling political talk at a time when the opposition and the nation are in grief.

But trust Estrada to try to score political points against the Arroyo administration at the cost of the death of Poe, whom he calls his best friend. Estrada made the incredible claim that Poe died of disappointment and despair over his loss to Ms Arroyo in allegedly fraudulent elections. He explained that it was typical of Poe to keep things to himself and not express his hurt to friends.

The claim by the deposed president is incredible for two reasons. One, if indeed Poe kept matters to himself, then it's inconceivable how Estrada could have known that his friend was utterly depressed about his electoral loss. And second, all accounts of those close to Poe during his last days showed that he had moved on after his defeat last May 10.

Although he had contested the election result, accusing the administration of fraud, which in itself was a gentlemanly gesture that showed he was willing to allow democracy and the law to do their function, Poe, according to those around him, had been busy planning new film and television projects. He had in fact supervised the packing of relief goods for the victims of the last two typhoons. Against the claim of Estrada, Poe seemed to be a remarkably well-adjusted person, not wont to wallow in self-pity.

Perhaps all of these divisive sectors should emulate the grace of Susan Roces, who, when asked if the President was welcome to visit Poe on her husband's wake, replied, "Everyone is welcome." In fact, when she received a rosary and letter of condolence from Ms Arroyo, she thanked the President for her gesture.

Even former Sen. Tito Sotto, Poe's campaign manager, was composed and gracious to expressions and gestures of condolence, even if they came from political enemies. These people do credit to the memory of Poe, a proper gentleman who was an unfailingly gracious person and a singular unitary figure—which cannot be said of certain cantankerous people who highhandedly call themselves his pals and allies.

# Mercy missions without fanfare

*(Continued from last Wednesday)*

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

IN THE PREVIOUS column, I wrote that even with a total log ban, illegal cutting of trees from public forests will continue if demand for forest products doesn't ease and people are provided with other means of livelihood. In the barangays of Real, Infanta, Nakar and Dingalan, for example, the residents, hardest hit by the landslides and floods admitted that they had illegally cut trees for lumber, firewood and charcoal because that was "their only means of livelihood."

I said the Philippine construction industry is very wasteful in the use of wood and that the government should have a policy like those of other countries, such as the United States, now already using wood substitutes that are cheaper and more durable.

As for the big demand for charcoal and firewood, this can be satisfied with tree farming. But the trouble with government policy on tree farming is that it encourages the planting only of fruit trees and the more expensive hardwood trees, such as narra and mahogany, which take decades to mature. So why not plant, in between, the hardwoods and fruit trees, fast-growing and easy-to-grow trees like giant *ipil-ipil* and *kakawati* for firewood and charcoal? They will be big enough to harvest within one year. The farmers will earn some income while waiting for the fruit trees and hardwoods to mature.

Cut only the branches in summer and the trunks will sprout new branches when the rains fall. What's more, these two trees are self-propagating. Leave a few branches to bear pods; when ripe, these pods will pop open and scatter their seeds to grow with the first drops of rain. Even better, these trees are legumes whose fallen leaves fix nitrogen in the soil, fertilizing it for the hardwoods and fruit trees.

Tree farming for firewood is already being done in some barangays of Laguna. You see bundles of *ipil-ipil* firewood for sale stacked along the highways.

As for charcoal, we now have the technology and machines to make charcoal out of farm wastes such as rice hull, coconut coir, twigs and leaves. They are compressed into charcoal bricks that are now being sold, even exported, though still in a very small volume. Right now, the rice hulls, coconut coir, twigs and leaves are just burned in the farms. That's like burning money. The government should help and encourage farmers and hill people to make charcoal bricks.

The coconut plantations are a rich source of charcoal and firewood. Coconut shells make very good charcoal; coconut coir can be compressed into charcoal bricks along with other farm wastes; and palm fronds, when chopped into two-foot-long pieces and dried in the sun, make good firewood.

Strangely, these are already known to farm folk but they don't do it in commercial volumes because nobody encourages them to do so. The government should encourage them by lending farmers money to buy the machines to compress farm wastes into charcoal bricks that hundreds of thousands of sidewalk barbecue and *lechon manok* stands and *ihaw-ihaw* restaurants can use.

The Ilocos hills and mountains, as well as the backyards, are now bereft of trees because of the big demand for firewood to feed the Virginia tobacco flue-curing barns. Even fruit-bearing trees were cut down because the owners were tempted with big sums of money for the firewood.

The same thing will happen to the hills and mountains near poverty-stricken barangays if the government doesn't do something.

* * *

Several kind-hearted groups are getting widespread publicity for relief missions to flood-ravaged areas, but I would like to congratulate another group that has been helping flood victims quietly and without fanfare. This is the SM Foundation, which has been distributing relief goods and bringing volunteer doctors and medicines to provinces affected by typhoons Winnie and Yoyong.

Using the private helicopter of the Sy family and an Air Force Huey chopper, the foundation has been sending relief goods and medical missions to Camarines Sur, Quezon, Nueva Ecija and parts of Bulacan. Five bridges have collapsed in Quezon, making the stricken barangays inaccessible by land. Supplies can be brought in only by helicopter. Weeks after the typhoons, hungry residents are still fearful when the next supplies would come as the collapsed bridges have isolated them.

So far, 10,000 families have been benefited and P1.85 million spent to purchase relief goods and medicines. The relief goods, contained in plastic pails, consist of rice, noodles, cans of sardines, laundry soap and blankets. Medicines for cough, fever, diarrhea, hypertension, parasitism, typhoid fever and topical ointments for skin diseases are also included.

In all its relief missions, the governors of the affected provinces are actively involved, as well as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Disaster Coordinating Council and the Army Reserve Command.

That's not the only thing the foundation is doing. Through its Health and Medical Programs under former Quezon City Vice Mayor Connie Angeles, it will start the renovation of and donate equipment to the pediatric ward of the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital where the Cervantes twins died due to the lack of equipment and facilities.

* * *

Although not yet formally inaugurated, the Front Page piano bar on Teodoro M. Kalaw Street in Manila is now open for business. President Macapagal-Arroyo has been invited to be the guest of honor during its inauguration as well as of the clubhouse of Samahang Plaridel, the association of veteran journalists. The lounge is their watering hole but it is open to the public.

# Requiem for a reluctant hero

**PASSION FOR REASON**

*Raul C. Pangalangan*

I FIRST met Fernando Poe Jr. earlier this year when he was about to run for president. He had invited a few professors, myself included, to ask about our views from our specialized disciplines.

At the outset, I was impressed by his humility, his candid confession that he had a lot to learn. But in the course of later conversations, I was even more impressed by his questions. We had begun talking about international issues and I mentioned a key foreign policy concern, the US opposition to the proposed International Criminal Court (or ICC) for war criminals. Indeed, in the subsequent US presidential debates, George W. Bush would twice dare John Kerry to discuss this issue, asking why the Democrats would "surrender American soldiers to be tried by foreign judges." I was struck by FPJ's immediate question. Was the ICC like the Nuremberg Tribunal that tried the Nazis? he asked. Several topics later, having turned to the prisoners of war in Guantanamo at the US military base in Cuba, he asked: So those prisoners, would they have been protected by the ICC? FPJ had been caricatured as a high school dropout, and yet here he was, self-taught on issues that the pedigreed and the Ph.D.'d often ignored for issues more hip and chic.

Above all, I was impressed by his sincerity. At some point, many of these experts would be politically pressured to shun him, unlike other academics actually involved in political campaigns of other candidates who did not seem to have suffered for it. A traditional politician would have rushed to promise the goodies, the glory and perks of high office, anything to neutralize adverse pressure from a powerful opponent, but not FPJ. To his eternal credit, not once did he extend any promise of a future appointment. In his quiet, low-key manner, he instead apologized to the professors that they had been harassed on his account. All he would offer was that he would honor their sacrifice by standing by his pledge to be an honest and activist president—and by that response ennobled those he addressed and showed himself to tower above the competition. How I wished the Filipino public had a chance to see the candidate in this light, not the reticent FPJ who shied from public debate, but the reflective FPJ, focused and ethically steadfast.

I came into these meetings a doubter, and left a believer. FPJ presented the possibility of a leader who through sheer popularity could rise to the presidency without owing any debts to the politicos, and by the power of sincere conviction, lead. Given our politics, by the time a candidate becomes president, even the most genuine and well-meaning would be so indebted to the politicians that his government is already hostage to vested interests even before he is sworn into office. Yet here was a man who was already made, his place in society widely recognized and his estate secure. His buddy, former President Joseph Estrada, would have granted him any favor but he had sought none. The presidency had little to offer to Da King yet at the moment the challenge was cast, he obliged.

FPJ's decision to step down from his pedestal and enter his valued name into a nasty and dirty contest spoke nobly of the man. His slim but dubious loss spoke less nobly of the people for whose cause he was fighting.

The Filipino elite never truly gave the man a break. All the presidential candidates presented their platforms, evidently with the assistance of teams of experts and writers. Yet only FPJ would be asked if he wrote it himself. His citizenship was questioned, and it was said that he was either American or Spanish, but not Filipino. The irony was that he was also accused of not speaking English (and certainly not the Spanish of old money), and was demeaned for speaking only Filipino, the native tongue of the nation from whom he was sought to be disowned. Filipino voters would act like they were choosing the captain of the debating team, or searching for the top policy wonk. We failed to recall another actor-president, Ronald Reagan, who unified a fractious nation.

But these are issues on which we can all differ because they belong to the "sovereign prerogative of choice." What is disturbing is that FPJ's officially declared defeat shows that our system of governance is fundamentally flawed. It is so beholden to the politicians and completely unforgiving of outsiders that even a popular candidate like FPJ cannot hope to win without relying on professional politicians.

He has been lampooned for being Da King who reigns only in the world of make-believe. But why mock FPJ fans for wishing to escape reality, but not the desolate reality they wish to escape? Why scoff at the desperate who persist in dreaming yet exalt the elite who have frustrated their dreams?

"Beneath the chest of every Filipino president beats the heart of a tribal chieftain." Ours is a nation of disparate tribes, including those at Edsa II and Edsa III. The tribes at Edsa II may look more familiar to anyone reading the oped pages, but certainly not those at Edsa III. I saw on TV their fury as they besieged Malacañang; their anger was raw, their indignation incoherent, inarticulate. They were sure that they were aggrieved, but seemed clueless why and how their grievances could be redressed. FPJ was one leader who had earned their faith and deserved it.

The one lesson we must learn from the recent genocidal horrors in Yugoslavia and many other places is that the world, as we know it, is fragile and that it takes so little for our civilization to unravel. FPJ's death leaves a dangerous gap, one that requires that intuitive bond with the Filipino soul that FPJ above all others had most genuinely forged.

# Highest lake in the world

COMMENTARY

*Belinda A. Aquino*

LAKE TITICACA, Bolivia—Peru and Bolivia are like twins in the Andes, boasting some of the highest and most spectacular mountain peaks in the world. In fact, Bolivia was once part of Peru occupying what is known as the "*altiplano*" (high plateau). Then known as "Upper Peru," Bolivia's modern history dates back to 1545 with the "discovery" of Potosi by the Spanish conquistadores searching for gold and silver. But earlier, in 1200 A.D., the Inca Empire in Cuzco, Peru, conquered what is now known as Bolivia and held it until the Spanish conquest.

The only landlocked country in the Andes, Bolivia has other bragging rights. It has the highest navigable fresh water lake in the world, the highest airport, the highest ski run, the highest capital city and, according to Peter McFarren, a native Bolivian, the "highest concentration of cosmic rays on earth." La Paz, the capital, sits at an altitude of 11,900 feet and its greatest landmark looming above it is the 21,000-foot Illimani mountain. It is an amazing sight.

But the country's other landmark, Lake Titicaca, takes away your breath. And I mean literally. You just go higher and higher until you reach this incredible lake in the sky at an elevation of 12,507 feet. The air gets thinner and you wonder if your lungs will hold out. It is 200-km long and 110 km at its widest section. It is owned by both Peru and Bolivia and covers a total area of 8,300 sq. km. Getting here is one of the sagas of my traveling life. You seem eerily suspended between earth and sky, like being in another world.

We took a train from Cuzco to Puno, both in Peru, covering 351 km in nearly 10 hours on one of the most breath-taking countrysides I've ever seen. The train snakes through mountain peaks as high as 12,000 feet, but your anxiety is allayed by the great beauty of the Peruvian landscape and the wide variety of flora and fauna dotting the highlands. Imagine our Cordillera two or three times higher stretching for miles on end with the most artistic terraces, carved cliffs and sloping fields planted to corn, cotton, wheat, potatoes, barley and other crops. It's a natural panorama that complements the country's most famous landmark, the Machu Picchu.

But going back to Lake Titicaca, we got up bright and early the following day to catch a bus from Puno to the border of Bolivia. On reaching the lake, we transferred to a catamaran (ferry) in Copacabana (not to be confused with its Brazilian counterpart). The lake forms part of the boundary between Peru and Bolivia and has an extensive fleet of motorboats carrying goods and passengers, especially between the ports of both countries. It has many bays and small islands, notably those named after the sun and the moon. In Inca mythology, the sun and the moon hold an important place. Sun Island has remnants of Inca palaces, gardens and temples, and Moon Island has magnificent views of the Andes mountains.

So, what does this lake have to do with Bolivian culture? Because of its strategic location and environmental richness, Lake Titicaca has been one of the major human settlement centers in South America since prehistoric times. Remains found at the lake's southeastern end attest to the previous existence of one of the continent's oldest civilizations, even preceding the Aymara and Inca cultures. The Spaniards, the first Europeans to reach the lake area, found it to be one of the most densely populated in South America.

Instead of climbing some more to see the lake at a higher altitude, I stopped to talk, in my broken Spanish, with a vendor selling all kinds of woven materials from blankets to sweaters. I saw her run up the steps like an antelope with a huge backpack of things, which must have been heavy, to sell to tourists. I thought she was only in her mid-20s, but when I commended her about her amazing feat on those rugged steps, she said she was 45. She reminded me of our Cordillera sisters—features, headgear, dress and all. I asked if she had children and she said she had two. She volunteered the information that her husband was in their house working, mostly weaving the products she sold to lake visitors.

Approximately 50 percent of the lake people and of Bolivia are descended from the Aymara and Quechua pre-Columbian cultures. About 20 percent are *mestizos* and 25 percent are white. The *antiplano* groups still cling to indigenous practices and tend their llamas, alpacas, sheep and vicunas, which are environmentally protected.

For all its natural beauty, Bolivia is probably the poorest country in the Andes. It has a population of seven million spread over 98 provinces and 1,272 cantons. For more than 160 years after regaining its independence, the government changed hands 78 times, mostly through military coups. But in 1952, the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) was formed and some fundamental reforms were launched.

And—surprise!—in 1979, after a failed coup, the Bolivian Congress elected the first woman president, Lydia Gueiler Tejada, who was supposed to serve until elections scheduled for 1980. But she was toppled in another military coup in 1982, a former MNR president came to power.

As we left La Paz for Buenos Aires, a demonstration was taking place in the town square. Lack of time prevented me from "poking" some more into this frontier in the sky, and as we descended into Buenos Aires, I breathed a virtual sigh of relief. This time, I will have to deal with only a couple of thousand feet above sea level, not 13,000!

*Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.*

# Hard sell, no sale

PINOY KASI

*Michael L. Tan*

*"BILI na, bili na, libreng kanta."*

I was amused by the *tiangge* (bazaar) vendor. She was obviously doing this tongue-in-cheek, offering a free song for anyone buying stuff from her, but she did remind me that even with the influx of cheap goods from China, there are just too many sellers these days, and not enough people buying. Times are hard and people are careful with their shopping budgets.

Since it takes so much more now to catch a potential consumer's attention and to keep that person interested enough until a purchase is made, you're going to find more and more marketing gimmicks, mostly hard-sell tactics. Sometimes they work but more often they don't.

I thought I'd compile a few tips for my friends in business, as well as Bong Austero and others at the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) who train the business people, my way of making up for not being able to speak at their last convention.

### Song-and-dance routines

The vendor offering a free song with purchases was probably kidding, but the other week I saw a literal song-and-dance routine used to attract customers.

I had just delivered a lecture at a convention and was on my way home, when I noticed the record store, and thought I'd drop in to pick out some Christmas gifts. As I drew closer to the store, I was greeted with really loud hip-hop music blaring away. Right at the entrance was a young couple, dressed punk-style, gyrating away like the world was coming to an end. I stood by to wait to get in but the music and the dancing continued, and eventually people drifted away, as I did. You just couldn't get into the store.

The hip-hop dancing was an example of marketing overkill. You catch people's attention then prevent them from moving on to browse and buy. These fancy marketing song-and-dance routines attract people but the novelty wears off easily and you lose potential customers. In other cases, as with this loud hip-hop display, people may actually be driven away.

Not quite a song-and-dance routine, but a totally wasted routine nevertheless, is the insistence of *tiangge* vendors on using obsolete hawking techniques, calling customers to buy. You see it all the time, vendors singing out every few seconds, "Sir, Mam, *bili na*, rubber shoes." Goodness, I want to tell them, everyone in the entire block is selling rubber shoes so it serves no purpose to call out your wares. In fact, I avoid those who call out because I suspect they'll be too aggressive in trying to sell their goods.

### Airheads and stalkers

Rather than expending so much energy to call in customers, business people should invest more to improve customer assistance. Again, whether it's a sidewalk stall or a large department store, many of our businesses make the mistake of emphasizing quantity: hiring too many people and not training them properly.

You get several varieties here. Again, maybe it's because we're such a musical nation, I've been in several business establishments where the sales clerks are idly sitting in a corner singing away. Okay, so I'm being unfair; they're not totally idle, some will sing while filing their nails.

Then you have the cell-phone addicts. I was recently in a shop where the manager suddenly swooped in and confiscated all the employees' cell phones. Apparently, a customer had complained about poor service because the sales staff were all busy talking or texting away.

On the other end of the spectrum, you have the busybodies who stalk you as you browse, telling you this yellow polka-dotted, itsy-bitsy bikini is really cute (favorite adjective with our sales clerks) and will look great on your wife. Okay, thank you, goodbye. Sometimes, if the store does have good products, I stay on, but I have found that when some product does interest you and you need to ask for more information, the busybodies turn out to be airheads who know nothing about what they're selling.

Quality standards for customer assistance should apply as well to phone inquiries. Local businesses pour so much money into ads announcing new products, with phone numbers to call, and yet invest so little on the people who will receive potential customers' calls. For a country that prides itself with so many call centers, we're really very bad with phones, even with basic courtesies like asking customers to hold the line.

I'm going to have to name one company with a particularly bad record when it comes to phone customer assistance: Globe handyphone. I've had people who can't speak in English but insist on doing so; then when I ask them to switch to Filipino, it turns out they can't speak Filipino as well.

### Management bottlenecks

It isn't just the bad starts that get you into trouble. Don't think that you've got it made just because someone finally reaches for his or her wallet. You can still botch a sale at the last minute, even as the customer is about to pay.

Again, we overdo things here. I was in a long queue at a National Bookstore branch the other day and counted nine women cramped behind three cash registers. It's the same thing with SM and many other large chains, where they hire someone to handle the cash register, as well as a checker and a wrapper. The women at National are fine. They're courteous and helpful, and I mention them because they really deserve better working conditions. In other business establishments, I've seen staff who are adversely affected by the crowding, which translates to slow service and grumpy faces. There's always the temptation to dump what you wanted to buy and look for another shop with shorter lines and more pleasant service.

Problems can crop up anywhere along the marketing process. I call these management or business bottlenecks. All you need to ruin a business is one incompetent person handling a vital function. That includes marketing people hatching up schemes like hip-hop at the door.

Make sure you have staff who can quickly take over when there's a weak link, like a good manager who can crack down on the cell-phone addicts. I would have given up on Globe a long time ago if it were not for the efficient staff in their service centers (thanks, Patrick, at the Rockwell center), who I would turn to after battling a call-center operator.

To sum up, you don't need to sing or dance to make a sale. Hard sell can mean no sales. Stock quality items, hire a few good people who can work as a team and who know more adjectives besides "cute," and you'll have customers coming back for more.

### Last chance for Christmas shopping

Last call before Christmas: Drop by Market One, the weekend market at the Lung Center (near the Quezon Memorial Circle) where you should be able to complete your holiday shopping with food items, plants, handicrafts, toys, clothes. For the holidays, coordinator Susa Arcega tells me they're open as well Saturday mornings although it's still Sunday when they have the most stalls.

# Policy is also to blame

AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

ALMOST forgotten in the wake of the nation's mourning for "Da King" of Philippine movies is the ongoing suffering of our brothers and sisters in Aurora and Quezon, and in Nueva Ecija and Mindoro previously, due to floods and mudslides brought on by typhoons and heavy rainfall.

These natural phenomena may have been the proximate cause of the disasters, but as everyone, from the highest officials of the land to ordinary citizens, assert, the deaths and destruction are really attributable to the wasteful and wanton exploitation of the forests.

There's still some controversy whether it was "illegal" (or legal) logging that is to blame for the loss of our forest cover, or the slower but incremental destruction caused by the encroachment and settlement of landless folk on the mountain slopes. Little mentioned in the course of the debate is the role played by national resource policy in the uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, including the forests.

The issue is discussed in great detail in the introduction to the book "Communities at the Margins" by editors Germelino Bautista and Hiromitsu Umehara in their introduction, excerpts of which are quoted below. (Many thanks to Maricor Baytion of Ateneo Press for the excerpts and commentary.)

* * *

**THROUGH particular postwar policies, the postcolonial state maintained and promoted the country's specialization in particular natural resource and agricultural exports. As a case in point, it allocated most of the public lands to the forestry sector for purposes of resource extraction rather than conservation. Apart from granting permits for mining, livestock grazing, and industrial tree plantations, the state issued timber license agreements to private individuals and corporations for commercial logging purposes. Thus, from only 802 thousand hectares (ha) of forest lands released to logging concessionaires in the 1951 to 1960 period, the area under timber license agreements expanded threefold by an additional 3.2 million ha from 1961 to 1970, and another 5.5 million ha from 1971 to 1980. By 1990, the government had granted a total of 10.2 million ha, or about 68 percent, of classified forest lands to timber license agreement holders.**

**State incentives were given to exporters of natural resources. To boost the production of wood for export, for example, among the incentives were "liberal annual allowable cuts, zero export taxes, low and declining forest charges that amounted to only 2 to 6 percent of log prices from the 1960s to the 1980s, and high protective tariffs on imported processed wood products. State functionaries also provided incentives indirectly by inaction, through the non-enforcement of penalties against logging damages, failure to undertake replanting and forest rehabilitation, and illegal logging practices.**

* * *

SIMILARLY there were no policy restrictions for the export of mineral and marine resources. Except for a low permit fee, commercial fish catch and the export of exotic aquarium fish species, fish fries and fingerlings were not taxed. The mining industry was also subjected to low taxes. With the lobbying efforts of the Chamber of Mines, the tax imposed on the industry even declined through time. The mining ban was also lifted in particular reserve areas. Moreover, mining companies received subsidies in the form of price supports, funds for stabilization, and tax amnesty for distressed companies, in addition to the benefits they obtained from government infrastructure projects.

Thanks to these incentives, the wood and mining industries experienced phenomenal growth in the 1950s and 1960s, consequently increasing the flow of people to resource extraction and processing areas in the frontiers where logging-sawmill and mining operations were established. The entry of migrant workers in these frontier areas in turn pushed indigenous communities out of the extraction areas, deeper into the uplands.

* * *

**APART FROM THE unsustainable, unmindful levels of natural resource use, extractors did not plough back their rents for the reproduction of the resource base. Despite the high economic rents effectively realized by commercial logging, fishing, and processing industries from the combined effects of a tax regime and the favorable movement of demand and prices, the incomes were not reinvested in reforestation, tree plantation development, fishery management, and marine reserves protection. Instead, extractors converted their rental incomes into consumer durables, luxuries, real estate, and financial assets in the Philippines and abroad.**

**(Such an economic structure has led to the creation of "core poor"): indigenous communities in the uplands who have been pushed into the interiors by loggers, miners, and lowland migrants; former workers of logging concessions who engage in subsistence production; municipal fisherfolk displaced by commercial fishers; the farm or nonfarm workers who have been displaced from a declining sector-industry like wood or sugar; farm households in calamity- or drought-prone areas; farm workers without adequate water or functioning irrigation system; and landless workers who have moved to the coastal areas, towns or cities but remain unemployed by the informal economy.**

**Indeed these groups have been the most vulnerable to disasters, both natural and manmade, as the horrific tragedies in the recent weeks have shown.**

**State authorities and various interest groups—which have controlled policy making and implementation as well as the allocation and use of the country's resources—must be made to answer for these crimes that they repeatedly commit against communities who only emerge from the margins when attention is dramatically called to their plight, often a little too late.**

# Late bloomer

HIGH BLOOD

*Lilia P. de Vera*

*WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves.* —**Ed.**

COMING from a court hearing in Bulacan, I made a side trip to buy plants in Guiguinto. Content with having made some good bargains, I told the woman who sold me the plants how lucky she was to have a hobby for a business. She certainly looked older than me with her face heavily lined with wrinkles and some of her teeth missing. Which prompted me to ask how old she was. "64 years old," she replied. I was dumbfounded. "Why, that's my age," I thought to myself.

Anyway, I'm a late bloomer, sort of—a *probinsyana* from Bulacan who got married at 31, moved to Metro Manila, helped in the family business and went shuttling between the Philippines and the United States for about eight years to keep an immigrant visa active before finally deciding to settle for good in our dear country.

At the age of 54, with my children having finished college and with more than enough free time in my hands to spend doing some accounting, crocheting, sewing, cooking and reading, I decided to take up law—"to exercise my mind," I thought. I chose one of the country's three top law schools based on information that its passing average in the bar was quite high; and, sure I wanted the best.

After finishing college as a working student and scholar, then passing the accountancy board immediately after graduation, I had the wrong notion law school would be a breeze. I never imagined the law school teeming with so-called "terror" professors. There simply was no lawyer in our family who could have warned me.

Studying law in that school made me more religious. Every day before the start of classes, I made sure to pass by a church and to pray that I be spared from class recitations, vowing before God that I would study harder the next day, while making all kinds of promises. When I was not well prepared for the recitations, I'd go to school with goose bumps.

I didn't mind the stares of classmates who must have wondered (at the start of the first semester of my first year in law) what I was doing in their midst; or, if I was a professor, why I was in jeans! To steel myself against their questioning, if piercing, looks, I told myself it was I who was paying for my tuition, it was my life, I am responsible only to myself.

My husband had told me, also at the start of the first semester, to pay my tuition in installment as he did not believe I'd be able to finish it. He seemed to have forgotten that I have always been a go-getter. By the way, I am a certified public accountant; that's why I find law interesting.

To make a long story short, I made friends in school. I became "Tita" or "Mommy" to everyone. They turned to me when they felt hungry, and it became a usual thing for me to bake and bring them their favorite oatmeal cookies. They also confided to me problems of the heart, perhaps because they looked up to me as someone who has weathered the storms of life. I enjoyed being in school, I even joined a sorority, the League of Lady Barristers, of which I remain a member.

I commuted either by jeep or by bus, later by FX from our office, as it was costly to bring my driver.

I finished law when I was 59, taking the bar right after graduating in 1999—after attending summer classes and review classes for minor subjects I was not allowed to overload. I remember a note the dean attached to my registration slip when I was asking to take 23 units, during my last semester in 1999. On it was this question, "Why are you in a hurry to flunk the bar?" printed in bold, red ink, mind you! I cried in the ladies' room, I just wanted to be with my batch mates in taking the bar.

During the testimonials the school gave us for passing the bar, I teased the dean about that note, without rancor. I knew that he just wanted to make sure I would not be one of those in the statistics of flunkers. Fortunately, after studying and praying hard to my favorite patron saints, going as far as Manaoag, Pangasinan, I was among the 16-something percent would-be lawyers who made it that year.

When the results of the bar were released, I personally went to look at the list of successful examinees, doing it after almost all the other examinees and onlookers who had gone there earlier had left. I did not want people to see me cry just in case I found the list without my name on it. But when I saw my name, I couldn't help but throw a fist in the air and, with the feeling of exhilaration all over me, told the person next to me I passed the bar.

To my surprise, the very next day, somebody was requesting me for an interview. I was sort of puzzled for I couldn't imagine how they even came to know my name. Some media people are simply resourceful.

Three days later, I was featured in the "World Tonight"; then later in "Balitang K." And so it came to pass that the secret I have kept from my classmates for so long—my age—became public knowledge. Even my friends abroad were calling me.

I am a practicing lawyer now. A daughter who had a master's degree in marketing from an American school passed the 2003 bar. My second son took the 2004 bar with his Dad who is now 64 years "young." I am now keeping my fingers crossed and praying hard for them, for who could doubt the power of prayers?

As for that old plant vendor of my age whom I met in Guiginto, Bulacan, she may be exposed to the sun most time of the day—not caring at all about sun block creams, moisturizers and the like. But just the same, she must be happy with her life surrounded by beautiful flowers and plants; and the way she looks is no more important to her than making a living.

*Lilia P. de Vera, 64, is a senior partner at the Pilares-De Vera & Associates Law Offices.*

# Plebiscite on mining urged

THE DECISION of the Supreme Court to reverse itself on Republic Act 7942 (the Mining Act of 1995) raises fundamental questions.

First, how much—what percentage—of the wealth to be mined by foreign companies would go to the Filipino people, the owner of the country's mineral resources? The National Economic and Development Authority has all the figures—$840 billion worth of mineral wealth embedded in our part of the earth, $10 billion in foreign investments expected to come in, and 251,826 jobs to be generated. But there is no figure whatsoever on the Filipino people's share from the bonanza. Is it because the Filipino people, God's chosen owner of the mineral resources, stand to get nothing? Does the decision take the whole caboodle from the Filipino people and turn it over to foreigners?

Second, since opening our mineral wealth to foreign exploitation is not new, why didn't the Supreme Court take into account our experience? From 1898 to 1946 when we were an open American colony, and from 1946 to 1974 when we were a disguised US colony under the Parity Amendment, our mines were open to exploitation by 100-percent American-owned companies. American mining firms—Benguet Consolidated, Balatoc Mining, Baguio Gold, Philippine Iron Mines, Big Wedge Mining, Coco Grove, Surigao Consolidated, Hixbar Gold, Samar Mining, etc.—amassed fabulous fortunes from our mines, but in the end left nothing but devastated lands, poisoned rivers and toxic waste in our country.

Third, what made the Supreme Court reverse itself on the unconstitutionality of RA 7942? From January 2004 when the Court declared RA 7942 unconstitutional to November 2004 when it made the law constitutional—a period of 11 months—nothing changed in the objective conditions: unamended, the Constitution and RA 7942 remained as they are. The change of position, therefore, could have involved subjective factors only. This means that the mining lobby waged by Malacañang and the foreign mining interests worked.

Fourth, instead of declaring constitutional what it had itself earlier found unconstitutional, why didn't the Supreme Court let the Filipino people themselves decide? After all, they are the owners of the wealth. Moreover, eliminating Article 12 of the Constitution, which shields the national economy and patrimony from transnational greed, is high on the agenda of the Charter change being pushed by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. If plans don't miscarry, it will be held next year (2005). Can't the interests behind the mining lobby wait?

Mineral wealth is not renewable. Once we lose our minerals to foreigners, they are lost forever. Why must the Supreme Court decide what to do with them and not the Filipino people themselves in a plebiscite?

**—AMADO GAT INCIONG,**
**Unit 301 Union Square Condominium,**
**145 15th Avenue,**
**Cubao, Quezon City**

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

# NPA's double-faced war

ALLOW us to borrow a quotation from Confucius, "Woe to those who caused misery to other people's lives." We, the people from Natonin and Sagada, Mountain Province, condemn the dastardly killing of 2nd Lt. Ben Tarnate Puyao and his men by the New People's Army. Puyao was leading a team of Army troops on a mercy mission to bring supplies and save people in flooded areas in San Rafael, Bulacan at the height of typhoon "Winnie," when they were ambushed by the NPA in San Rafael, Bulacan.

I attended the wake and burial of Puyao here at a local Baptist Church at Camp 7, Baguio City and I was very moved to see the three little kids and the wife he left behind. Hundreds of relatives, friends, townmates and former students also came to condole with his family. Before he earned his commissionship, he taught for 10 years at the San Vicente High School, Baguio City, where he was liked and loved by his students and co-teachers.

It was really revolting to hear the NPA's Ka Roger Rosal declare that the massacre of the 10 Army soldiers led by Puyao was a legitimate encounter. Did Ka Roger and his band of terrorists think that killing Puyao and his men helped the flood victims that needed the soldiers' help that very moment, the very same people whom the NPA claims it is fighting for? The least Ka Roger and his minions could have done was apologize and express sympathy to the families of the soldiers they massacred at the height of a calamity.

Who would have imagined that, in the middle of a vicious storm, someone would carry his war to his unsuspecting "enemies" who were only helping and trying to save their fellow human beings, and then shoot them cold?

**—MARCELINO BALASO JR., MM,**
**Market Compound,**
**Poblacion, Bontoc,**
**Mountain Province**

# Why just now?

AS we all know, the Philippines is blessed with different types of natural resources. As citizens of this country, it is evidently our duty to take care of these natural resources. But a lot of people would rather abuse and misuse these God-given gifts.

This can be seen, for example, in illegal logging. This practice is not only against the law but it causes a lot of damage to our environment. Illegal logging can also be blamed for the devastation caused by the recent typhoons. These typhoons left a series of flash floods and landslides that left hundreds of people dead or missing.

President Macapagal-Arroyo consequently ordered a renewed crackdown on illegal loggers. The question is: Why just now? Do we really have to wait for hundreds of people to die or go missing before our government enforces our laws?

It is sad to say that these problems are attended to only after tragedies occur. I think it is time to change our attitude before it's too late.

**—ALDRICH LIM,**
**aldrich_dlim@yahoo.com**

# On the passing of 'Da King'

I JOIN the nation in mourning the death of the great king of Philippine cinema. He deserves to be called "Da King." He touched the lives of so many people, especially the Filipino masses who looked up to him. My heart goes out to his wife Susan Roces who is suffering so much pain due to her loss. May God giver her the strength she needs at this most difficult time. Let us remember Fernando Poe Jr. and his legacy as a true and great Filipino.—**Wilma Delos Santos, Riverside, California, USA**

* * *

## VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I would like to extend my sincerest condolence to Poe's family. He was one of my favorite actors in the country. His way of life is worth emulating. His kindness and generosity will always be remembered. *Paalam* Ronnie [Farewell, Ronnie].—**Anna Marie Avanceña-Kemp Hamilton, 75 Graywood Rd., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada**

* * *

Has it come to this point? Nincompoops in the House of Representatives are proposing to fly the national colors at half-staff as a gesture of national respect for the actor-turned-presidential candidate. Trivializing the national flag for a popular actor? How low can we go? Let's face it. I was also an admirer of the actor as an artist, when better actors were not around. But I do not want to see the flag desecrated by flying it at half-staff to honor an actor just because of his movie accomplishments.—**Jose Orozco, Calamba, Laguna**

* * *

Regarding the proposal to fly the Philippine flag at half-staff in honor of Poe who died on Dec. 14, it is ridiculous that some members of the House could think they can just declare a nation in complete mourning. They should know that we have rules, regulations and laws to keep things in order. Perhaps, people need to realize that he is a "king" in the movies and not in reality.—**Vernon Lee Ferrer, 3412 Hollygreen Drive, 102 Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

* * *

I pity the late Fernando Poe Jr. When he ran for president, I had no doubt that he was sincere. However, other than his total lack of education and experience in politics, what really kept me from voting for him were the traditional politicians who surrounded him. From the very beginning it was obvious that they urged him to run because he would just be putty in their hands. They egged him to run because they were bankrupt—morally and politically—as leaders. In short, they tried to use him.

Now, even in his death, they want to use him again. It leaves a bad taste in the mouth when the same traditional politicians issue presumptuous statements about how Poe was so depressed because he felt cheated out of victory in the last presidential elections. Please refrain from squeezing out Poe's death for whatever political mileage or publicity. Poe died because it was already his time as determined by the Maker. Leave it at that. Let Poe rest in peace.—**Eyriche Cortez, 111 West Avenue, Quezon City**

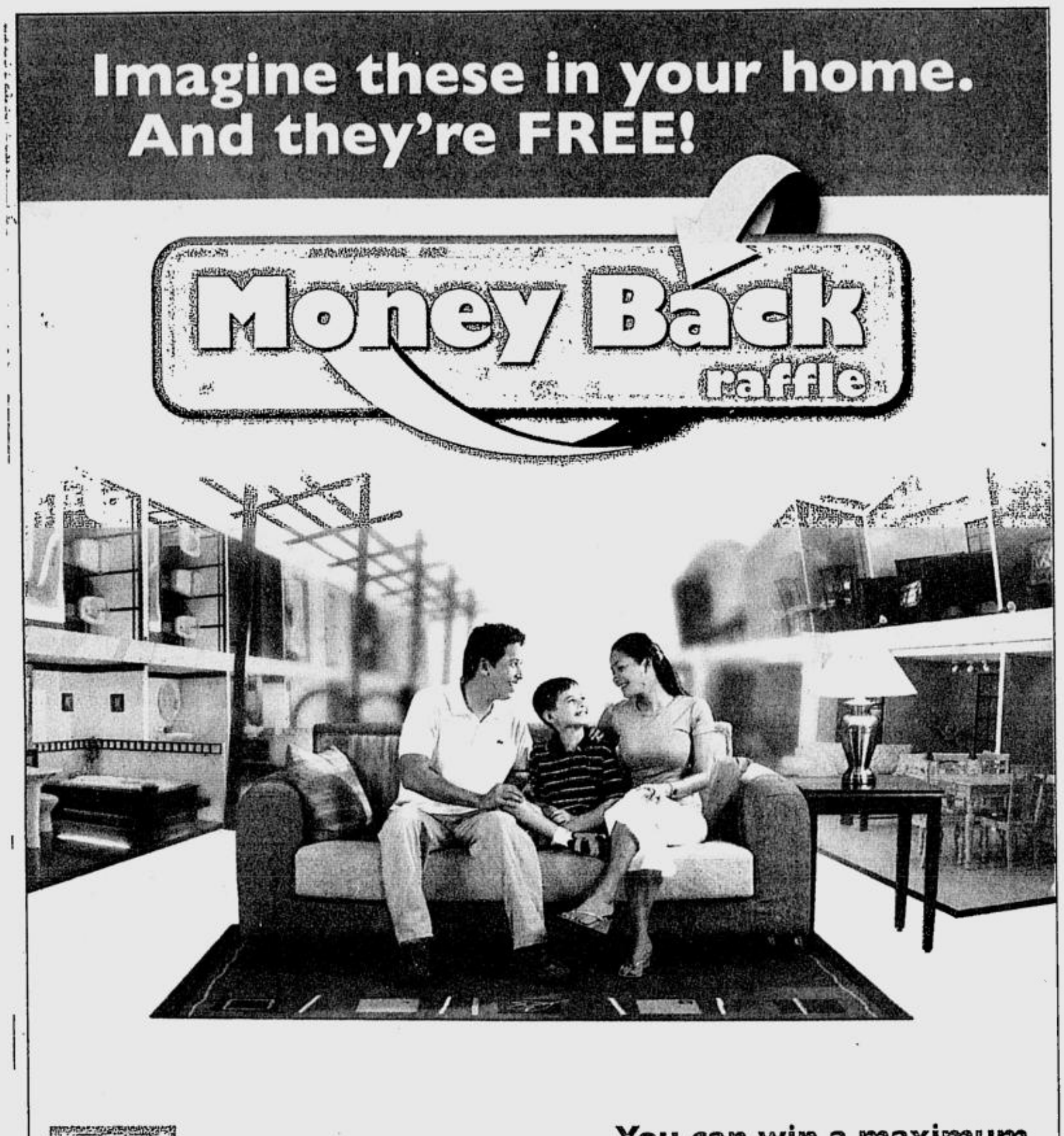
* * *

Like millions of others, I have watched practically all of Poe's movies since I was a kid. He was the favorite actor of my dad who would drag me along to the cinema whenever Poe had a new movie out. So even now, seeing his movies being replayed on TV brings back fond memories of bonding with my dad.

And his movies were not so bad, whether they were fantasy, action, comedy or all of the above, they were all pretty OK.

I admired Poe, the gentleman, the man's man, the idol and the action star. That is, until he ran for president. In that brief span of time when he was used as a puppet by scheming politicians, I lost all respect for him. I was working for Sen. Panfilo Lacson's campaign back then, and I even wrote an article that came out in the papers stating why people shouldn't vote for Poe.

In retrospect, I feel bad about having to be the one to discourage people from voting for the overwhelmingly popular actor, but I do not regret that in some small way I contributed to his defeat in the elections. If he had won, we wouldn't be mourning the death of an actor today, we would be mourning the death of a nation. Perhaps, Divine Providence took "Da King" at this time, so that unscrupulous politicians can no longer take advantage of him. Shortly after his loss in the polls, there was talk among opposition members to make him run for senator in the next election. They should have learned to leave the man alone.—**Mark Cabilangan, Quezon City**

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# NPA rebels raid N. Ecija town hall

By Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

**CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Commandeering the cars of the mayor, parish priest and two traders, 50 New People's Army rebels stormed the municipal hall and police station of Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, some 180 km northeast of here, on Wednesday night.**

The attack came shortly before President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a cease-fire on the part of government soldiers.

The daring raid, the fourth since last week in Central Luzon, lasted only five minutes, Senior Supt. Alex Monteagudo, Nueva Ecija police chief, said.

In Tarlac City, 10 heavily armed NPA rebels shot and killed a policeman in Barangay San Isidro on Tuesday night. SPO2 Froilan Biag, 42, was reportedly killed for his "crimes against the people," according to the NPA's Nelson Mesina Command, which owned responsibility for the murder.

In the Nueva Ecija attack, 50 rebels conducted checkpoints in Barangay Padilla, about 3 km from Carranglan town proper, before launching the raid.

It was through the checkpoints that they seized four vehicles, including those of Carranglan Mayor Luvimindo Otic and the parish priest identified only as Father Pisico.

Three of the vehicles were later abandoned in a remote place in Carranglan while a van was used by some rebels in their escape.

The rebels fled with four M-16 rifles. They also destroyed the police station's computer sets and communication equipment.

It was the second rebel attack in Carranglan following an ambush in 1995 where four people were killed.

The series of renewed offensives came in the runup to the 33rd founding of the Communist Party of the Philippines on Dec. 26.

In Tarlac City, police said Biag, together with SPO2 Eduardo Jarillo, went to investigate a traffic incident in Sitio Molave when they were stopped by several armed men along the highway. *With a report from Ronald Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## *Baguio to patent festival name*

By Vincent Cabreza
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—Threatened by flower festival projects being lined up by other towns, the city council voted to patent the name and concept of the Panagbenga, Baguio's flower festival, that has drawn crowds of tourists every February for the last nine years.

The council's immediate concern was lawyer Damaso Bangaoet, a former president of the defunct John Hay-Poro Point Management Corp. (JPDC).

Bangaoet started the festival in 1995, in tandem with the developers of Camp John Hay, and had been chairing the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) to sustain the project's momentum.

Councilors here said Bangaoet was scheduled to manage a similar festival project called Adivay for neighboring La Trinidad, Benguet, which grows most of the flowers sold in the city.

Bangaoet said he designed the Adivay festival as a "complementary" activity to Baguio's Panagbenga.

He also resigned from the executive committee, and accepted a consultancy offer from La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan to run the Adivay festival in February.

Bangaoet resigned from the committee over policy differences with some members.

Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia said the city must protect its proprietary rights over Panagbenga to stop anyone from the BFFFI from wrestling back control over the festival to offer it to other towns.

BFFFI records show that the annual Panagbenga has drawn up to six million tourists since 1995.

Leticia Clemente, city budget officer, said BFFFI earnings in 2003 and 2004 reached P2.4 million.

This was based on an independent audit that was conducted for the BFFFI, she told the council on Monday.

## 4 Garcia cars can't be found

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—The Sandiganbayan is still tracing at least four vehicles owned by retired Major Gen. Carlos Garcia and his family that remain unaccounted for and was sequestered by the anti-graft body.

Sandiganbayan chief sheriff Edgardo Urieta said a three-member team from the sheriff's division failed to locate the vehicles when the team served the court's seizure order of the vehicles in Iloilo and Guimaras last week.

The sheriffs found a Honda CRV sport utility vehicle (SUV) in a repair shop on Delgado Street in Iloilo City. The vehicle, owned by Garcia's eldest son Ian Carl, was impounded and brought to Manila on Monday with the help of the Traffic and Management Group and the Land Transportation Office in Western Visayas.

He said they are still looking for a Mitsubishi L300 van, a Honda Civic sedan, a Toyota Rav 4 SUV and a Toyota 4x4 pickup. The vehicles could have been transferred to nearby islands like Negros, said Urieta in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

The former military comptroller is facing charges of amassing P143 million in stolen wealth.

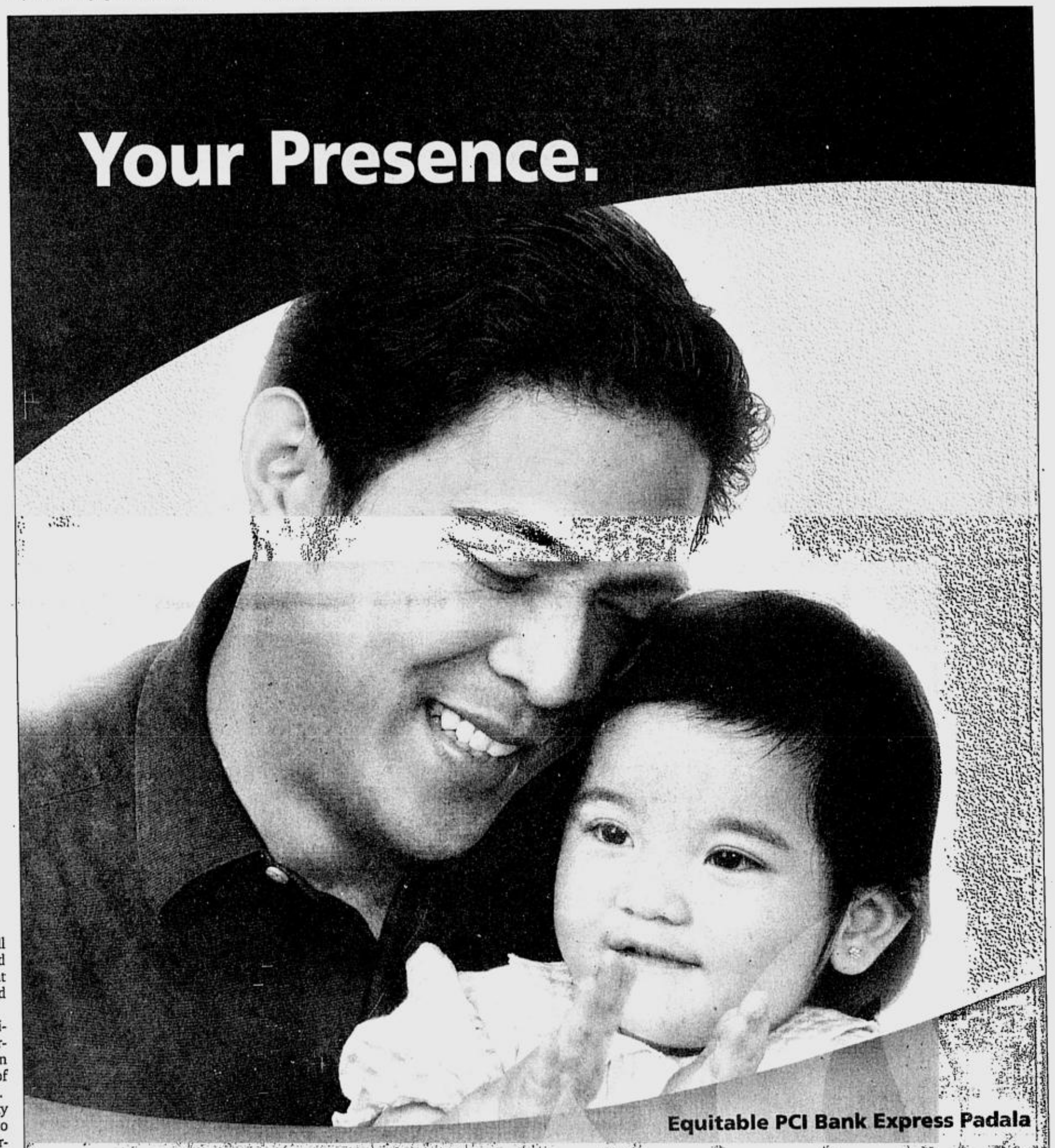
## Former Batangas vice mayor slain

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A former vice mayor of Agoncillo, Batangas was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen in front of a girlie bar in the neighboring town of Taal early yesterday.

Senior Supt. Don Montenegro, Batangas police director, identified the victim as former Vice Mayor Raul Perez, 50, a resident of Barangay San Jacinto, Agoncillo.

Montenegro said Perez had just gone out of the Lady Anne Disco Pub in Barangay Cawit, Taal at about 3 a.m. and was about to board his car when the suspects suddenly appeared from nowhere and repeatedly shot him.

Montenegro said residents in the area rushed Perez to the Don Juan Dimayuga Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival after suffering at least 12 gunshot wounds in the body. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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# Lower power rates seen

By Carla P. Gomez
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—Consumers of the Central Negros Electric Cooperative can expect lower electric rates next year after the Energy Regulatory Commission approved its application to have its loan condoned.

This was disclosed by ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. in a letter received on Wednesday by Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella.

Ceneco manager Henry Sia said the amount condoned is close to P300 million. The reduction in electric rates would be implemented in February 2005 after the ERC shall have made permanent the resolution that condoned the loans incurred by Ceneco.

Albano said in the letter that the ERC approved Ceneco's application for its loan to be condoned during its board meeting on Nov. 19.

This is in line with Executive Order No. 119 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Aug. 28 that supported the restructuring program of electric cooperatives, Albano said.

Under EO 119, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. was mandated to assume the outstanding loans of all electric cooperatives from the National Electrification Administration and other government agencies that were incurred to finance their respective rural electrification programs, he said.

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# Defensor dared: Run after Quezon loggers

LUCENA CITY—The environmentalist group Crusade for Sustainable Environment based in Mauban, Quezon has dared Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to vigorously pursue the fight against all illegal logging syndicates based in the town, some 157 km east southeast of Manila.

"We're more than willing to help in identifying the names of the syndicate members and the location of their piles of hot logs," CSE president Beth Escueta-Mossman said in an interview here.

Mossman furnished the INQUIRER at least 10 names of Mauban residents, who, she alleged, are all involved in illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

She also handed a sketch of the locations of the different stockyards of hot logs and several unlicensed sawmills in the area that, she said, cater to the needs of illegal loggers.

"Some local officials of Mauban are also deeply involved in illegal logging operations," according to Mossman.

She, however, said her group does not want to get involved with the military and the police in the renewed drive against illegal logging.

"We don't trust them, not even Mr. Victor Corpus. We've had enough experience in the military's involvement with illegal loggers," Mossman said.

But Maj. Ramon Rosario, deputy commander of the Army's 2nd Civil Relations Group-Civil Relation Service based in Camp Nakar, said it was unfair for Mossman to indict the military for alleged involvement in illegal logging.

"During this time of environmental catastrophe, all Filipinos must work hand in hand to combat the menace of illegal loggers. The government, especially the military, would surely welcome any information from Ms Mossman's group," Rosario said.

The activist group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas also pressed Defensor to file criminal charges against members of the so-called Mauban Boys, a logging syndicate based in the town that was identified by a Quezon official on Tuesday.

"All Secretary Defensor needs is a strong political drive to save the environment and the people from further destruction and ecological disaster," Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said over the phone. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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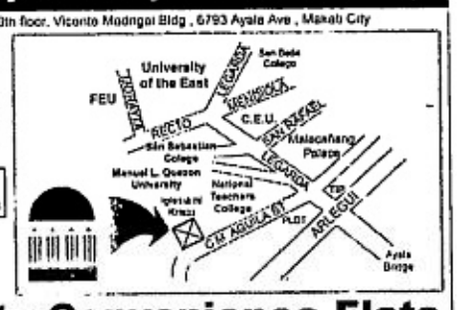


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ANTITERROR MEASURE

# Phones, bags banned in churches

MATI, Davao Oriental—Police have banned cell phones and bags inside churches as part of a tightened security measure against possible terror attacks.

Chief Insp. Jose Catimbang, Mati police chief, said the ban covers those who attend dawn masses.

Catimbang said it was the local Catholic Church that requested tightened security in the wake of intelligence reports that terrorists were planning to attack here.

During the all-out war declared by former President Joseph Estrada in 2000 against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a bomb went off inside the Mati Cathedral. Nobody was inside the Church during the explosion.

Catimbang said Mati Bishop Patricio Alo has adopted the ban in all the province's 11 towns.

Before the start of Thursday's dawn Mass in Mati Cathedral, authorities took time to inform churchgoers of the new policy.

"We hope the people will support this measure because it's for their safety. If a bomb explodes inside the Church and many people die, they would immediately blame the police for not doing their job," Catimbang said.

Catimbang said cell phones may now be used as remote bomb detonators.

"We, along with Church officials, will continue to persuade the people to support this measure because as far as I know, we could not confiscate the cell phones of churchgoers because there's no law on that. We could only check the contents of the bags of the churchgoers but we could not confiscate their cell phones," Catimbang said.

But on Thursday, some churchgoers who brought in their cell phones and bags were seen walking out of the Church premises prior to the start of the Mass.

When some of them returned, they no longer have their mobile phones with them.

Anecita Malayong, 67, said she had long suggested the ban on cell phones inside the Mati Cathedral "because this is a place of worship."

"Those who bring in their mobile phones inside the Church are insensitive Catholics. I think they were there not to worship but to flaunt their expensive mobile phones. That is disgusting because they only disturb other worshippers," Malayong said.

*Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Gunman shoots dead Australian, self in Antique

ILOILO CITY—An Australian national was shot dead Wednesday night in Sibalom town in Antique.

The suspect, Elbert Mallorca, 37, killed himself after shooting Greg Mark Fernandez-Cao, 41, at around 7:30 p.m. at the Mallorca residence in Barangay Villar, 7 km from the poblacion of Sibalom. The town is 10 km from the capital town of San Jose.

Supt. Ronilo Quebrar, Antique police director, said the suspect and the victim died of bullet wounds in the head.

Fernandez-Cao, from Brisbane, was killed in the sala at the ground floor of the two-story house while Elbert was found on the roof of the house. A 38 cal. revolver with three bullets was found beside Elbert.

The Australian, a family guest, arrived in Sibalom last week for a vacation. There were reports that he was a friend of one of Elbert's sisters but Quebrar refused to confirm this or comment on who invited the victim to come to Antique.

Quoting investigators, Quebrar said Elbert was apparently suffering from a nervous breakdown based on accounts of family members.

"The killing was unprovoked and for no apparent reason," Quebrar said in a telephone interview. He said Elbert appeared tense days before the killing and had difficulty sleeping. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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# *Lowering flag for Poe violates law, rules NHI*

From page A1

The press secretary and executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts are quoted to have said that there is "a sense in Malacañang" to honor Poe with an award. Is this posthumous award done to honor him for his contributions to Philippine cinema or is it a legal loophole to allow the flag to be flown at half-staff on the day of his interment?

Either way, whoever authorizes this will be damned if he/she does and damned if he/she doesn't. Respect for law and a national symbol, the Philippine flag, is at issue here.

If the present Flag Code is inconvenient for some, perhaps it is time to review, amend or abolish it. But while the code is in force, it must be followed.

### No legal basis

Since no legal basis was in sight, Rep. Imee Marcos cited as a precedent the lowering of flags on the death of Filipino world boxing champion Gabriel "Flash" Elorde in 1985. That was possible when then President Ferdinand E. Marcos was practically the law, and that case has since been invalid because no legal provision for it exists in the present Flag and Heraldic Code signed into law by then President Fidel V. Ramos in 1998.

Since 1972, the institute has been the implementing agency of the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines that has had a long and colorful evolution into Republic Act No. 8491.

To get around this legal impediment, some quarters proposed that the late actor be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. The proposal was politely refused by Poe's widow, Susan Roces.

Roces had the last word when she announced that the flag would be lowered to half-staff inside the compound of FPJ Studios.

Another option floated was that Poe be given a posthumous award or decoration such as the National Artist Award or the Presidential Order of Merit but these will have to pass through a stringent screening and evaluation process that may end in more debate and thus provoke further division rather than reconciliation.

### Buck stops in 2 places

In the end, the recommendation of the NHI—the lead agency that tries, often vainly, to enforce the Flag Code—would help decide the issue.

As of noon yesterday, members of the NHI board were asked to resolve the issue in an informal referendum. The majority of the board members took into consideration the sentiment of FPJ fans and political supporters, but decided against the proposal of lowering the flag at half-staff.

While accommodating Imee Marcos' request is the path of least resistance it would set a precedent that would make it difficult to address many similar requests in the future. Thus, the buck stops in two places—Malacañang and Congress. Both can order the lowering of the flag at half-staff for Fernando Poe Jr. and can also call for a review and amendment of the law.

When Ferdinand Marcos reorganized the government in 1972, all the various commissions set up to commemorate historical events and persons were integrated and placed under the NHI.

All laws being general, and sometimes vague, implementing rules and regulations were drawn up to make things clearer. At the moment the national flag is permanently hoisted at half-staff throughout the year at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Libingan ng mga Bayani and the Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion.

### NHI resolution

Last year the National Historical Institute board made a resolution stating that the flag shall be flown at half-staff during the death anniversary of heroes and heroines, calamities of grave adversity of national or international solemnity as ordered by the Office of the President, as may be recommended by the institute.

### The qualified

Aside from the above, the flag can be flown at half-staff on the day of the announcement of the death of the following officials—the President or former President for 10 days; the Vice President, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives for seven days; Cabinet secretaries, associate justices of the Supreme Court, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the director general of the PNP, or equivalent in rank for five days; heads of national government agencies, including GOCCs, for three days; commanding generals of the Philippine Air Force, Army and the flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy for three days.

"Governors, vice governors, city and municipal mayors and vice mayors for three days; members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Panglungsod and Bayan, on the day of interment; veterans of the previous wars, barangay chairmen and councilmen on the day of interment; former national or local government officials, appointed or elected, other than those specified above, on the day of interment, within their former respective territorial jurisdictions and by resolution of their respective sanggunian.

"Regional directors, superintendents, supervisors, principals, teachers and other school officials, on the day of interment and by order of the proper school authorities concerned; recipients of national orders and decorations, on the day of interment and by order of the President or the Congress; and other persons to be determined by the Institute, including the former Vice President, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a period of less than seven days."

### Not qualified

If we follow the above, Fernando Poe Jr. does not qualify for the lowering of the flag at half-staff on the day of his interment. Media provided more heat than illumination by undertaking ambush interviews of government officials who later made well-meaning statements that painted President Arroyo into a very tight corner.

### 15 minutes of fame yearly

While the primary aim of the NHI should be the research and popularization of Philippine history, it has been saddled with other functions like going over the designs of postage stamps, or issuing certifications that would enable otherwise historically insignificant groups to get commemorative car plates.

Often overlooked and ignored, the institute has its annual 15 minutes of fame when it presides or organizes national commemorations, like Rizal Day (Dec. 30), or Independence Day (June 12). The institute also serves as the custodian of a number of historic sites—most prominent being the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, the Quezon Memorial Shrine in Quezon City; the Rizal Shrines in Calamba, Laguna, Fort Santiago in Manila and Dapitan in Zamboanga del Norte, and the Mabini Shrines in Tanauan, Batangas, and Nagtahan.

Unfortunately, reflected glory from our heroes does not help when the institute has to resolve an overheated issue like the lowering of the Philippine flag as an expression of national mourning for the late Fernando Poe Jr.

# Angry, hurt Susan speaks out

From page A1

birth certificate?" she said.

Poe's camp had alleged that documents brought out by former National Archives Director Ricardo Manapat in the heat of the political campaign this year showing the presidential contender was not a Filipino had been forged. Lawyer Victorino Fornier had also filed a disqualification case against Poe, arguing that he was not a natural-born Filipino, but the case was thrown out by the Supreme Court.

The actress also pointed out the irony in conferring the title of National Artist on Poe by some quarters, when they had questioned her husband's citizenship. "What are the qualifications in order to be given such an honor? Who is giving the award?" she asked.

### Timing of offer

Twice in the interview, with GMA 7's Mel Tiangco, Susan questioned the timing of the offer.

Asked to comment on the report that Malacañang was amenable to giving her husband a Presidential Merit Award, the actress said: "*Sana ibalik na lang nila ang ilang* percentage ng entertainment tax to the people in the industry. My view is that Ronnie deserves to be honored by his colleagues and by people who sincerely feel that he made significant contributions to the industry."

### Scolds ABS-CBN

Later, in another interview with ABS-CBN, she told a startled Karen Davila of TV Patrol World: "*Masama ang loob ko sa inyo*, Channel 2," she said bluntly, charging that its bias against her husband in the coverage of his presidential bid, had continued in its reporting about Poe's electoral protest, his illness and death.

"*Hindi ko kikimkimin ang sama ng loob ko*," she emphasized. "People don't want to watch your news coverage because you capitalize on personal hurt," she said.

The widow then proceeded to cite instances during the last elections when Channel 2 reporters only took "tight shots" designed to create the impression that FPJ's sorties were not well-attended. "You did not show the crowd, you weren't showing the people," she said.

Reacting to the interview, ABS-CBN sent a brief statement saying it "respects the sentiments of Ms Roces," and was extending its condolences to the Poe family.

Regarding plans to assume her husband's role in the opposition, Roces said tersely: "I just want to clarify that I have no plans of joining politics. I have no plans of making my life more complicated. I also do not want people to take advantage of me," the actress told Tiangco.

"*Marami akong gustong ipagpatuloy na alam kong gustong gawin ng aking asawa, pero para personal na ambisyon, wala akong ganoon. Palagay ko yan ang dahilan kaya nagkakaganito tayo ngayon.*

"*Katulad nang mga nasabi ko nuon, pag ninakawan ka ng pera, madali. Pwede namang kikitain mo ulit yon. Pero pag ninakawan ka nang pangarap, di mo na maibabalik yon.*

"After this I want to spend sometime by myself, to gather my thoughts."

But she said she did not regret her husband's foray into politics, although she felt a rage within her.

"*Galit dahil hanggang ngayon ang mga hinaing ng mga tao, ay hindi pa naibsan. Ang question ko, ano ba ang ginagawa nila sa mga nasirang tulay sa Quezon?* Sending relief goods is not enough. What have they done about illegal logging?"

Asked what she felt when a wreath sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo was torn to shreds, she said: "*Karamihan sa mga bulaklak na nandito ay galing sa mga tao na kakilala namin, na sincero nagmahal kay FPJ. At yon din ang naramdaman nang mga supporter na tumatanggap. Di ako sang-ayon na hindi mabigyan galang ang mga alaala na pinaabot dito, pero hindi ko hawak ang damdamin sa mga tumatanggap nito. Nalulungkot ako na madinig yan, pero it also reflects on the person sending it. Alam mo me atraso, dapat bumisina ka muna. Siguro dapat isipin nila ano ang atraso nila. May malaki ba silang atraso?" she said.*

Vowing that she would not keep mum from now on, Roces said she would be "the voice of the people." But she stressed that she would do her bit to help "as a private person."

"All I want is for us to come together to continue whatever his dreams were for all of us," she said. "And like he said once, let us not lose hope because it is possible that hope is the only thing we have now."

At the height of the campaign, Poe was often put on the defensive by his detractors who questioned his citizenship, claiming he was not a Filipino.

"I have no regrets that he joined politics," Roces said. "But I'm angry that they thought so little of my husband." She said she was particularly hurt when Poe was referred to as a "mere actor" by newspaper publisher Max Soliven.

She said actors like her know the value of education, and that is why they strive to have their children finish school. But degrees and titles in themselves mean nothing unless they are put to good use, she said.

On a lighter note, Roces said she had used her husband's perfume for the occasion, and lifted the hem of her skirt to show off Poe's black socks. She also carried his white handkerchief, she added.

Asked why she did that, Roces replied: "So that I can feel him all around me.

When Tiangco asked her to confirm a story that Poe had commandeered the singer Rico J. Puno to serenade her on one occasion when she was in a jealous mood, Roces replied with a laugh: "*Hindi lang si Rico.*" At one time, she said Poe hired an entire orchestra just to appease her.

"*At lumalabas ang pag-ka-Bisaya ko pag galit ako*," she admitted.

Every Dec. 16 for the last three decades, Roces said she and Poe would wake up staring at each other, and then blurt out: "*Napagtiyagaan na naman natin ang isa't-isa. Isang taon na naman.*"

They did not have to say, "I love you," she said, for deep in their hearts, they knew how much they cared for each other.

At the end of the interview, Susan thanked all those who supported her husband.

"He has not left us," she said. "He is still with us."

# Mourners stream on; orderly lines restored

From page A1

calm when in line.

"We appeal to FPJ's supporters. Please keep your cool. Everybody will see him eventually," Conrad said.

A medical team is now on standby should a similar incident occur. Portable toilets have also been made available to the public.

By around 2:30 a.m. yesterday, the crowd had swelled to about 7,000. The scores of people who had been waiting for some time pleaded that the gate on Sto. Domingo Street be opened, according to marshal Raymund Simon.

The organizers did open the gate, but they failed to stop the onslaught of people. A railing that had been keeping people in line collapsed.

"I think it was a combination of grief, impatience and irritation. There were just too many people wanting to get inside at the same time, and the people got impatient," Simon said.

At least one woman and a child were pinned to the ground, according to witnesses.

But the injuries were minor, and the organizers were able to restore order with the police's help soon after, Simon said.

"About what happened yesterday, it has been fixed. We made adjustments to make the lines better," Cortez told reporters.

He added: "We ask the people to be patient. Everybody will have his chance to see FPJ."

In a phone interview, former Sen. Vicente Sotto III said the "multitude" of mourners had been a source of comfort to Poe's widow, movie actress Susan Roces, the rest of the family and friends.

"I'm not surprised to see the multitude of people there because this was the same scene during Poe's presidential campaign and the May election," Sotto said.

"His votes were just not counted," added Sotto, referring to the opposition's conviction that Poe had been cheated of victory in the May election.

Sotto called on Poe's erstwhile critics who were now praising him to stop. He said Poe's supporters were resenting this turnaround.

"Where were they when [Poe] needed their help [during the election]? They even went against him," Sotto said.

The ex-senator said Poe's family and friends were making sure that the wake would be a solemn one.

He said he had opposed a suggestion that a program be held outside the church. Poe would not have liked the idea, he said.

"People are there to view FPJ, and not to be entertained," he said.

### National Artist

Senator-actors Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Lito Lapid are moving to get Poe recognized as a National Artist.

Revilla filed Resolution No. 48 recommending Poe's recognition, saying the movie idol had greatly contributed not only to the development of the Filipino film but also to Philippine culture, heritage and history.

"FPJ exemplified ideals that inspired the lives of the Filipino masses," Revilla said in the resolution.

Lapid, for his part, wrote the National Commission for Culture and the Arts endorsing the award for Poe.

"We must not let his memory wither away in history but, rather, elevate him to the pedestal he rightfully deserves so that his life may continue to inspire the millions whose lives he once touched," Lapid said in his letter to NCAA Executive Director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez.

Lapid described Poe as "an artist, a mentor, an icon and, more importantly, a man of great heart."

Conrad Poe said the recommended conferment of the title National Artist on his late brother was most welcome. Nevertheless, he said, the burial at the North Cemetery in Manila would push through.

### Staying together

"What was definitely planned is that Ronnie will be buried at the family plot for only one reason—we love one another and we want to stay together," Conrad said.

"Even in death, we want to stay where we can easily be accessible to people, and [where] he won't be considered too far away from those who love him," Conrad added.

As for the title itself, Rez Cortez said it was "long overdue."

"We are thankful that he would be given such an honor," Cortez told reporters. "But I want to emphasize this: Let us not put Poe in a box. He is not just an [entertainment] icon, he is also a leader in the country."

Marichu Maceda, a close friend of the family, said a "core group" had discussed the idea of President Macapagal-Arroyo coming to the wake the other night.

The consensus among "Poe's supporters" was that it would be better if Ms Arroyo refrained from doing so, Maceda said.

"We talked about it last night. Maybe we should just allow the people's grief to pass. Let us not aggravate the situation, because emotions are high," she said, adding:

"[Ms Arroyo should] just let us grieve alone, in private. There is a time and a place for everything ... so that it won't add to the anger and resentment of the people."

On Wednesday, Poe supporters torched the wreath that Ms Arroyo had sent to the Sto. Domingo Church. They also tore to bits the wreath sent by Speaker Jose de Venecia. *See box.*

Certain parties in the Poe camp had also cited the results of the last election as an indirect cause of the actor's demise.

"As far as the family is concerned, they welcome anyone who comes here," Maceda said. "But the worry of those who support [Poe] is that if [Ms Arroyo] comes here and she is disrespected ... *kami pa ang lalabas na masama* (we will come out the bad guys)."

Maceda said the President had sent a letter of condolence to Roces: "My sister Gina [de Venecia] personally gave it to Susan. That is enough."

# Funeral convoy to stop by a place loved by FPJ

From page A1

the Filipino way of death.

The remains of the actor will be borne by a horse-drawn carriage.

Poe's sprawling studio complex is over a hectare. Bought in 1970, the studio was recently renovated with one wall now devoted to framed posters of Poe's movies that trace his filmic biography.

Close friend and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III said yesterday he and other friends of Poe, like Tony Tuviera, were working on the funeral details for the "King of Philippine Movies" and former presidential aspirant.

The initial plan was for the funeral procession to leave Sto. Domingo Church in the morning, proceed to his studio in San Francisco Del Monte in Quezon City.

From there, the funeral entourage would go straight to the North Cemetery where Poe would be laid to rest beside his parents.

And because of the huge turnout of people wanting to take part, Sotto said he expects the funeral procession to proceed slowly.

Poe's widow, Susan Roces, said in an interview on GMA 7 last night that following the first early morning Mass at Sto. Domingo Church, the funeral cortege will set out on foot to the North Cemetery.

Poe will be buried before noon—a family tradition, according to Marichu Maceda, a close family friend.

She said the parish had informed the family that there would be a wedding at 9 a.m. on that day.

"We should therefore vacate the chapel at around 7 a.m.," Maceda said, adding that Poe would not want to inconvenience anyone.

### Like 'Oplan Kaluluwa'

The traffic and security arrangements for Poe's funeral will likely be similar to "Oplan Kaluluwa" on Nov. 1, All Saints Day, according to Supt. Cesar Javier, chief of the Western Police District's Traffic Enforcement Office.

Javier told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that while his office would be handling relatively fewer roads compared to what the Quezon City police would have to secure during the funeral, he would be implementing measures involving thousands, if not millions, of people expected to show up.

For Oplan Kaluluwa, the PNP deployed its full force on the streets to ensure the security of the millions of people observing the annual Filipino ritual of honoring the dead.

Javier said Manila traffic policemen would be watching the streets leading to the North Cemetery, particularly Dimasalang, Retiro, Maceda and Aurora Boulevard. He said city residents, especially those from Tondo, were expected to attend the burial.

### Crowd control

"There would probably a lot of people going to the North Cemetery because FPJ has many fans. There might even be people still there even after the burial is finished," Javier said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria*

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# Medicine student found dead of 19 stab wounds in QC home

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

PAUL Prasnik, 23, told his girlfriend on Tuesday he would call her the moment he reached home.

He never did.

The following day, Keiko Hendrick, 22, was shocked to find out that Prasnik was found dead inside the bathroom of his Quezon City house on Almond Street, Project 3.

He had 19 stab wounds, investigator PO3 Felipe Tumibay told the INQUIRER.

Prasnik was a second-year medicine student at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center.

The master bedroom and the entire second floor of the house was in disarray, leading investigators to believe robbery could be the motive behind the killing.

But the police have not yet determined which items were taken away.

Investigators also failed to get finger prints from the scene of the crime. The killers apparently used hand gloves, two pairs of which were recovered inside the house, Tumibay said.

Keiko told the police her boyfriend left her house in West Avenue, Quezon City about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday for his house.

Because he did not call her as he had promised, she tried to ring him up the following morning.

Keiko had called about a hundred times but he never answered. She then decided to go to his house where she found Prasnik's lifeless body. Prasnik was still in his school uniform, Tumibay added.

The killer(s) apparently entered the house by cutting the steel grills leading to the main door. Because the door was intact, Tumibay said the killers might have waited for Prasnik to arrive.

Prasnik could have ran away from the suspects, and locked himself inside the bathroom, but the suspects were able to break in, Tumibay said.

A witness said he saw three men who appeared to be waiting for someone in front of the victim's house about 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

The victim lived alone in the house since his parents and siblings are all abroad, police said.

# Paralytic dies in fire

A 65-YEAR-OLD paralytic was burned to death in an early dawn fire in San Dionisio, Parañaque, yesterday.

Fortunato Mercado was asleep when an electric fan that overheated fell on his mattress, sparking a fire. A caregiver tried to carry him, but the victim's weight and the heat prevented him from doing so. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

# Scions of pols, cager in shooting spree

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO scions of a big political clan in Bicol and a son of a former basketball superstar were apprehended early dawn Tuesday after a shooting incident inside the posh Ayala Alabang Village (AAV) in Muntinlupa City.

The two members of the Bicol clan, one a minor and the other his 20-year-old brother, and a minor son of a former cager were accosted by village guards after a brief car chase.

They were stopped because their car matched the description of the vehicle seen outside a house which was repeatedly shot at by several assailants.

But before they could be investigated, responding policemen from the Muntinlupa police Precinct 2 released the suspects to their father.

## Guns released

The police officers identified as PO3 Balajadia and PO1 Alvarez also failed to confiscate two firearms of "unknown calibers" earlier found by the apprehending security guards from the suspects.

The families of the three suspects live in the village.

Irked, the owner of the house which was shot at filed yesterday a complaint against the policemen and the Ayala Alabang security officers.

"The AAV security did not inform us about the incident and did not check if anybody from my house was hurt," complainant Luisa "Bambi" Roxas Duce told the INQUIRER.

Duce said she realized that they had been shot at when she showed to a family friend the bullet holes in the screen windows of the house.

## Unaware

"I never thought that we were shot at, because I cannot think of anybody with motive to hurt us," she said.

She added that she was awakened by the sound of gunshots, and instinctively checked on her children. Without knowing what had happened, she went back to sleep.

"It was already morning when I saw wood splinters on the floor and stairs, it still did not occur to me that something had happened," Duce said.

The splinters came from the wooden balustrade of the stairs leading to the second floor where Duce and her three small children slept.

"Fortunately, none of my children were hurt," a thankful Duce said.

She related that she was terrified when she saw seven bullet holes on her green Nissan pickup truck (PLC 238), which was parked in front of her house at 316 Agno Street.

"I used the pickup to bring and fetch my children to school," Duce added.

Duce's house is two houses away from the residence of Sen. Pia Cayetano.

"This is highly irregular since the police officers should have brought the suspects to the Muntinlupa police station for proper booking since their crime is frustrated murder," an irked Duce said.

## Three firearms

Southern Police District scene-of-the-crime operatives were later able to gather deformed slugs and empty shells which indicated that at least three types of firearms were used: a caliber .45, a 9-mm and a caliber .22 firearm.

According to two witnesses, minutes before shots were fired at 12:30 a.m., they saw a white Ford Lexus casing the house of Duce.

The white Lexus, a report of the AAV security office said, was owned by the father of the brother suspects.

Security guards posted on street corners of the village initially tried to flag down the white Lexus after it was seen driving away from the house of Duce but the driver refused to yield, prompting the security officers to give chase.

After a brief pursuit, the suspects on board the white Lexus were intercepted by security officers at the exit lane of the Ayala-Alabang Village Madrigal gate.

## Nailed

According to the report of the AAV security, they had to set up nail spikes and pylons because the passengers on board the Lexus refused to stop.

The report said a black leather pouch was found on the suspects. The bag contained two firearms of unknown caliber.

The bag was reportedly taken by the father of the brothers.

Duce said the strafing incident might have something to do with an earlier altercation between the suspects and her younger brother, Santi Roxas, 20.

Duce said her brother and the suspects had a misunderstanding inside the V-Bar in Glorietta Mall in Makati City on Dec. 10.

# Xmas merrier for 304 Manilans

By Tarra V. Quismundo

EVEN while he had seemingly lived a lifetime, 64-year-old Salvador Montañes still wanted to know more. And so the former seafarer went back to school in October to learn more about electronics.

Yesterday morning, Montañes had another reason to have a merrier Christmas. With more than 303 other Manilans, ranging from youths just a third of his age to senior citizens like him, Montañes graduated from the free training course, part of a skills program of the Manila City government.

The monthlong courses organized by the Manila Manpower Development Center gave out certificates of recognition yesterday to the trainees.

Apart from electronics, the center offers training in reflexology, hotel and restaurant services, baking, cooking, food processing and hair dressing.

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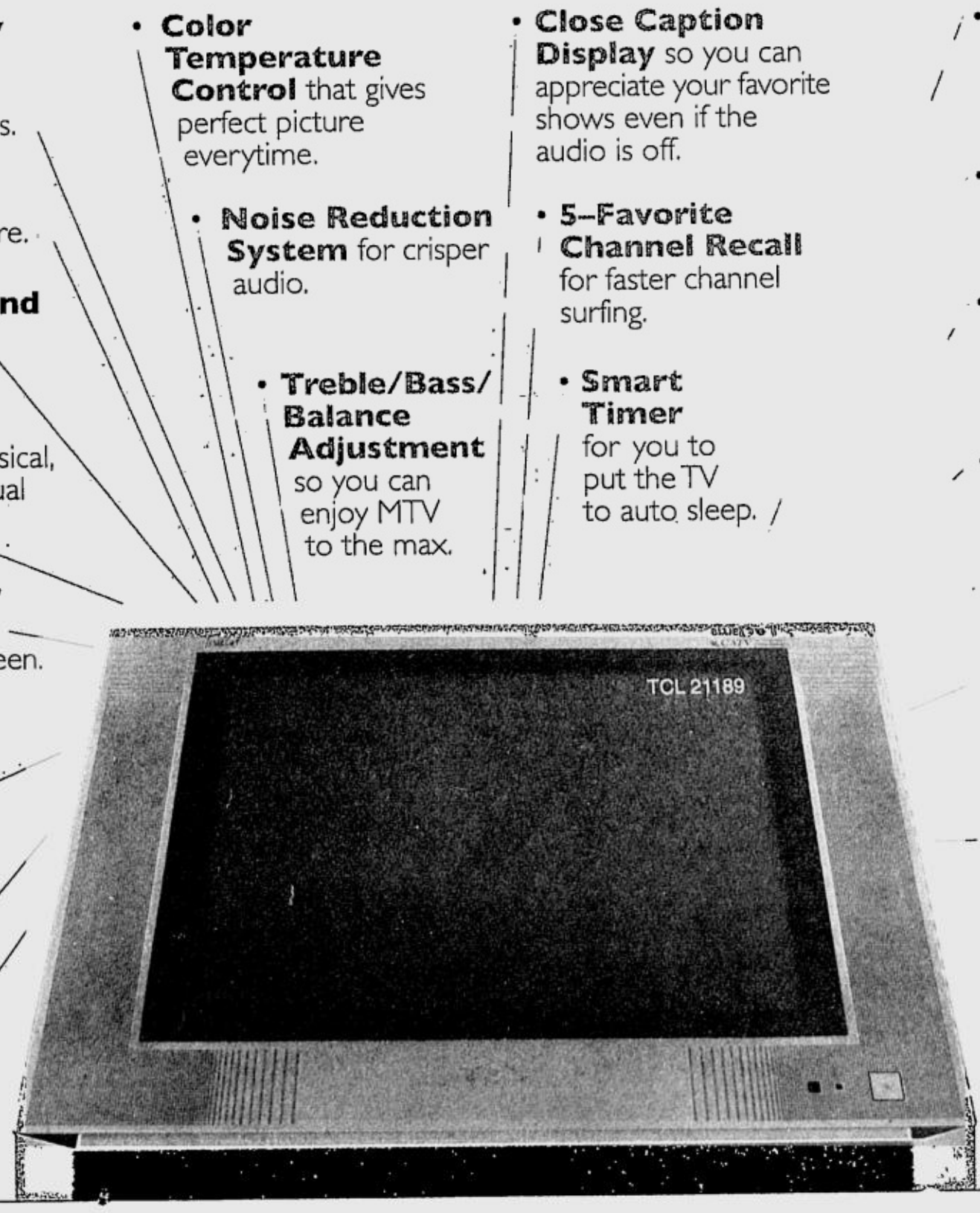


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# Two-man race tipped for Buhain's PSC position

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE LIST of possible replacements for outgoing Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain is very short. In fact, it's reportedly down to just two.

Of the names being bandied around as candidates for the agency's top post, sources said only two are "real contenders," namely Ateneo athletic director Jose "Junjun" Capistrano and current PSC commissioner Butch Ramirez.

The main consideration for choosing the next PSC chair, according to the sources, is the candidate's ability to contribute to the country's Southeast Asian Games hosting next year.

Capistrano, whose credentials include being the secretary general of the Manila Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee in 1991, has openly declared his availability as successor to Buhain, who announced Wednesday his transfer to the Games and Amusements Board after Malacañang had accepted his courtesy resignation as PSC chair.

Another thing going for the Ateneo athletic boss is that he is a close friend of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who was his classmate in college.

Ranged against Capistrano is an aspirant who has been in the PSC since the time of chair Butch Tuason.

Ramirez is said to be backed by no less than incoming Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who had appointed him deputy sec-gen of the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee.

Also reportedly supporting Ramirez's bid are local government officials from Visayas and Mindanao. Ramirez, who hails from Davao, helped build PSC coordinating agencies in the South during his almost five-year term as commissioner.

Also named in text messages as PSC hopefuls were outgoing POC president Celso Dayrit, Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza, former PSC commissioner Cynthia Carrion and Asian Games equestrian champion Mikee Cojuangco.

2005 REMATCH

# Barrera: Pacquiao bout top priority

MARCO Antonio Barrera (right) wants to settle an old score with Manny Pacquiao, but only after the Filipino hurdles his Mexican compatriot, Juan Manuel Marquez.

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

**MARCO Antonio Barrera is raring to get back at Manny Pacquiao.**

**In an interview following his recent win over fellow Mexican legend Erik Morales, Barrera said a rematch with the Filipino champion, the reigning Ring Magazine featherweight king, is his main concern next year.**

"For 2005, a bout with Manny Pacquiao is my top priority," said Barrera in an interview with Boxingtalk's Ricardo Lois during a press conference for Oscar De La Hoya's Boxeo de Oro.

"But we will have to wait and see," added Barrera, whose stature as the world's best pound-for-pound featherweight fighter was ruined when Pacquiao stopped him in the 11th round of their first meeting last year.

"He has a fight with Juan Manuel Marquez that he needs to win first and that is not an easy fight for him."

Pacquiao, who is coming off a fourth-round demolition of Thai Fahsan 3K Battery in Taguig last week, is slated to face WBA/IBF featherweight champ Marquez on Feb. 26 in Las Vegas in a rematch of their May showdown which ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, concern over Pacquiao's readiness to face Marquez cropped up after it was learned that the Filipino hero was planning to leave for the United States only on Jan. 10.

The January departure goes against the advice of his Los Angeles-based American trainer Freddie Roach, who came over to personally handle his training against Fahsan.

Roach had instructed Pacquiao to immediately fly to the US after Christmas to start preparing for Marquez, who is undergoing high-altitude training in the mountains of Toluca, Mexico.

Pacquiao is said to prefer starting light training in the US only when he arrives on Jan. 10. Reports said he had stopped doing light conditioning while resting in General Santos City following his victory over Fahsan.

The move has worried not a few Pacquiao supporters, who said he should get back to work immediately if he wants to be in the best shape against Marquez.

Against Fahsan, Pacquiao was criticized for visibly tiring easily and losing his deadly timing. Many fight pundits attributed this to his cramming in training for the unheralded Thai.

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PETRON

# Softball powerhouses collide

JESS YUSON

XING Yan of China steals safely at 3rd.

IN A CLASH of titans that could go either way, China and Japan mix it up today with no less than the first championship slot at stake on the penultimate day of the eighth Asian women's softball tournament at the Rizal Memorial stadium.

The defending champion Chinese and the Japanese meet at 6 p.m. in the second half of the two-game Page System semifinals. The winner advances outright to the one-game championship scheduled tomorrow.

It will be Chinese-Taipei against North Korea at 4 p.m. in the other semi-final-round match pitting the runners-up in the two divisions, with the victor meeting whoever wins in the Japan-China tussle for the second finals slot.

China and Japan swept their respective groups in the eliminations in a shining stint for the two teams which have ruled this meet with an iron hand.

The Japanese won the first three stagings of this tournament starting in 1967 in Manila, but the Chinese ruled the last four, all at the expense of Japan.

When the Chinese take to the field, the other thing foremost in their minds is to avenge their 1-0 loss over eight innings to the Japanese in their bronze medal duel in the Athens Olympics.

"It will be a classic, I'm sure of that," said Aleli Nabong, a member of a Blu Girls squad of another time.

The RP Blu Girls closed out on a torrid note, too, as they whipped Malaysia, 5-0, behind the combined one-hitter by Zayrel Ramos and Joy Lantin to finish with a 3-2 win-loss record in the tournament organized by the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines headed by former Rep. Harry C. Angping.

# Belasco keys San Miguel's Dagupan win

By Musong Castillo

SAN Miguel Beer roared back from double-digit deficits in the first half last night to nip Coca-Cola, 80-75, in a Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup road game at the Dagupan Astrodome in Pangasinan.

**GAMES TODAY**
**(Yñares Center)**
4:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

Nic Belasco scored 30 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in leading the Beermen to their eighth win against the same number of defeats.

The Tigers dropped to 7-10 and are in danger of being included in the lower half of the playoff roster.

San Miguel, which trailed by as many as 11, 22-31 early in the second period, pounded the middle and posted a 53-38 advantage off the boards in the road game backed by Lactovitale.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra seeks a key win against Red Bull at 4:30 p.m. today as action shifts to the Yñares Center in Antipolo.

Purefoods battles Alaska in the 7:30 p.m. second game.

The Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 80—Belasco 30, Ildefonso 12, Pena 11, Racela 10, Seigle 9, Hintiveros 5, Villoria 2, Mente 1.

COCA-COLA 75—Wainwright 17, Peek 16, Juinio 8, Arigo 8, Reavis 7, Avenido 7, Abarrientos 6, Antonio 4, Morano 2, Lao 0.

Quarters: 18-all, 35-41, 56-59, 80-75.

# Wizards stop Eagles, grab PBL top spot

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**MAGNOLIA Ice Cream-FEU woke up just in time to stop a late charge by AMP-Ateneo, 64-55, yesterday and clinch its seventh straight victory and the solo leadership in the PBL Open Championship at the Letran Gym.**

Arwind Santos and Denok Miranda knocked in crucial baskets for the Wizards after the Eagles had moved within six points at 51-57 with two minutes left after trailing by 18 points.

It was Magnolia's ninth win in 12 games even as AMP-Ateneo took its seventh loss in 10 outings.

In the second game, Toyota Otis-Letran repeated over Air Philippines, 90-86, in overtime to stay in contention with a 5-7 record.

From a tight third quarter, the Wizards unloaded a blistering run to zoom to a 54-36 lead three minutes into the fourth period.

But the Eagles came back behind JC Intal and Jason Castro who combined to bring the lead down to 51-57.

That was until Miranda stood up to bring sanity to the Wizards' game, scoring eight points in the payoff period to topscore with 13 points, four rebounds, one assist and a steal.

LETRAN'S Mark Andaya puts up a shot against Air Philippines' Jerome Paterno (right) and Mike Holper (below). ROGER MARGALLO

The scores:

First Game

MAGNOLIA 64—Miranda 13, Calli 10, Ybañez 10, Co 9, Jones 6, Rizada 6, Isip 4, Misolas 2, Santos 2, Raneses 2, Chan 0.

AMP-ATENEO 55—Alfad 15, Intal 12, Oreta 11, Tenorio 8, Castro 5, Bugia 2, Gatumbato 2, Espinas 0, Mendoza 0, Membrere 0, Kramer 0.

Quarters: 19-10, 26-27, 41-34, 64-55.

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN 90—Macapagal 22, Aldave 10, Andaya 10, Alcaraz 9, Daa 7, Aban 7, Bautista 6, Rodriguez 6, Enrile 5, Dula 2, Piñera 2, Coronel 2, Abadia 2.

AIR PHILIPPINES 86—Aljamal 23, Hubalde 11, Paterno 10, Holper 9, Te 8, Pua 8, Epondulan 7, Vizcarra 5, Alonzo 2, Garrido 2, Joe 1, Gonzales 0.

Quarters: 20-18, 47-35, 63-58, 79-all regulation, 90-86

# Paragua retains lead

FILIPINO Grandmaster-candidate Mark Paragua settled for a draw with GM Yu Shaoteng of China in the seventh round yesterday to remain solo leader in the 2004 Singapore Masters International Open Chess Championships. Paragua, 20, raised his total to 5.5 points on five wins, one draw and one loss, towing 5.0 pointers GMs Wu Wenjin of China and Susanto Megaranto of Indonesia and IM Nathanael Situru of Indonesia. Situru beat IM Jason Goh of Singapore to catch up with Wu and Megaranto, who drew their seventh-round game. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

# One night with FPJ

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

MY HOMETOWN also grieves over the death of FPJ. In case you've forgotten, FPJ's grandmother, Martha Reyes, was from Mangatarem, Pangasinan. She lived there all her life.

FPJ still owns a prime lot in my hometown, located at the heart of the town in front of the plaza. It's vacant now since their ancestral house and the commercial building they'd been renting out at a very minimal fee had burned down some years back. Faulty electrical wiring did it. The fenced property sticks out like a sore thumb, weeds starting to dominate the landscape and almost surrounded now by a clutter of business establishments.

Although FPJ's father was born and raised in San Carlos—only a town (Urbiztondo) separates my town from that city bristling and bustling under the expert leadership of Mayor Jolly Resuello—FPJ always treated Mangatarem as "part and parcel of my life." It was there, as a 17-year-old movie heartthrob in 1956, that he filmed the blockbuster "Lo Waist Gang." I wasn't in Grade 1 yet then but the memory of him astride his horse during one shooting, though a bit hazed and blurred due to an infant mind, lingers to this day.

"Ah, I'm glad you still remember that," FPJ said to me a couple of years ago, obviously overjoyed that someone from the town of his youth would still remember. "That was the time when my movie career was really starting to shoot up."

We were just three in a table that evening and the huge auditorium was alit in an explosion of multicolored lights. The orchestra was playing. He was seated next to me; next to him was the writer/columnist Sol Juvida.

It was the fiesta of my town and FPJ was the guest of honor; he came chiefly upon the invitation of Teddy Cruz, the former representative of the second district of Pangasinan whose son, Philip, is my baptismal godson. FPJ and Sol Juvida were among the guests, who crowned the fiesta queen and the first princess.

It was a night to remember, especially in light of the return of its most prominent son 46 years after "Lo Waist Gang."

He had nursed "wounded feelings" actually about my hometown due to a town thug. Showing uncalled-for machismo, the thug challenged FPJ to a fistfight during the shooting of "Lo Waist Gang." It was said that the smart aleck, drunk at that time, had even pulled out a gun and tried to use it in pistol-whipping Da King. Nothing serious, though, happened, as cooler heads prevailed. No blows found their mark, no shots fired. Disgusted, FPJ and the crew packed up and finished shooting the film in Mexico, Pampanga.

In his speech in this night of nights, FPJ corrected what the emcee had said: "With due respect, it is not true what our distinguished master of ceremonies said that I am an adopted son of Mangatarem. I am a proud son of this town and I will always be, forever."

He received a standing ovation from the crowd that included now Immigration commissioner Al "Buloy" Fernandez.

When it was time for him to dance solo with a partner of his choice, the orchestra under the baton of Dom Podring played waltz with gusto. Seemingly, all the town's certified socialites and the well-heeled, French-perfumed visitors from Manila went gaga at the prospect of getting the chance to do Blue Danube with Da King. Know whom FPJ picked to dance with?

A girl in jeans wearing slippers, her white blouse bought maybe from *ukay-ukay*.

She was certainly from the *masa*. She was in the pack that gate-crashed the party and sat in front of FPJ all the time that FPJ was seated with Sol Juvida and me, occupying almost the entire half of the auditorium. The police could do nothing; FPJ would have stopped them had they tried to disperse, shoo away, the fans. They just sat there as though hypnotized—their eyes fixed on Da King, unblinking.

After the dance, FPJ bade everybody farewell. As he trudged his way out of the auditorium, the crowd tailed him all the way to his car, cheering and chanting, "FPJ! FPJ!"

Da King is gone now, but to my townmates—his townmates—he will live in their hearts, forever.

# EAC shows way for 2 others in q'finals

EMILIO Aguinaldo College, Colegio de San Lorenzo and Arellano University made it to the quarterfinals after posting crucial victories in the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association men's basketball tourney at the EAC gym.

Bong Melocoton unloaded 23 points to lead the EAC Generals to a 65-60 conquest of defending champion St. Francis in Group A. It was the Generals' sixth straight triumph.

The CDSL Griffins downed the Doves, 61-47, to improve to 6-1, while Arellano stopped PSBA, 70-59, in Group B and joined early qualifier La Salle-Dasmariñas in the quarterfinals with a 6-2 slate.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# La Salle spikers survive Legends

By Musong R. Castillo

LA SALLE outlasted a walking-wounded PSC side in five thrilling sets yesterday to grab second place in the eliminations of the Shakey's V-League tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Lady Archers slugged it out with the Lady Legends in a 25-23, 22-25, 25-21, 22-25, 15-11 victory fashioned out in two hours and 20 minutes before an animated crowd.

The victory was the third in five games for La Salle, which dislodged PSC in second place. The Lady Legends dropped to 4-2.

Defending champion Santo Tomas hardly worked a sweat in improving to 4-0, ripping Far Eastern, 25-16, 25-8, 25-18, in the second match.

The Lady Tams took their fourth defeat in five games.

Attacker Michelle Carolino drilled in 20 points and star spiker Maureen Penetrante backed her up with 16 as La Salle survived the loss of Carissa Gotis.

Gotis twisted her left knee in one heated joust and was carried off the court possibly with a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

The Lady Legends also lost attacker Theresa dela Rosa to a right leg injury and felt the loss, as they bungled an 18-14 lead to go 1-2 down on sets.

Thelma Barina-Rojas, the most recognizable player in the team made up mostly by members of the Southeast Asian Games-winning RP squad in 1993, also pulled an abdominal muscle. She saw limited action after leading the Legends to a second set comeback.

# Tanpinco ahead by 4

**CEBU—Anya Tanpinco surged ahead in ladies' Class A when a struggling Jayvie Agojo took a triple-bogey on the last hole even as Eric Deen widened his lead in the men's championship class to five strokes after the penultimate round of the Samsung Amateur Tour's seventh and last elimination leg at the Cebu Country Club here.**

Tanpinco, playing out of the Negros Occidental Golf Club, scored a five-over-par 75 but still found herself leading by four over local bet Kathlyn Uy following the poor play of the heavily favored Agojo.

Jayvie, who was rushed to the airport clinic by her father Jun due to a severe stomach pain as soon as they arrived here on Tuesday, groped for form all day and struggled to a nine-over 81.

Deen, meanwhile, put himself on the brink of a third straight men's title. He matched par 72 to storm ahead by six with a 220 total.

TANPINCO

Carl Almario bounced back after a woeful 78 in the second round with the first sub-par round of the tournament, a one-under 71. He regained second place at 224.

Mark Anthony Dy had a 78 and dropped to third at 229, while ex-pro Ferdinand Mondares soared to a 79 and was fourth at 230.

Jufil Sato and Marco Mendoza led Class A with similar 78s, two ahead of Balter Balangauan. In Class B, Antonio Araneta scored an 82 to lead defending titlist Deo Gabasa. Mabu Kobayashi was third with an 84.

Winners here will advance to the national finals at the Wack Wack Country Club on Feb. 8-11 together with the other qualifiers from previous legs.

# Jewelers clip Snipers, close in on URBL title

CEBU CITY—Woodraw Enriquez canned two insurance free throws with three seconds left as M. Lhuillier-Cebu City squeaked past Ilocos Sur, 74-70, Wednesday and moved within a win of clinching the United Regional Basketball League title at the New Cebu Coliseum here.

The Jewelers took a 2-1 lead in the title series and could cut short the best-of-five affair with a repeat victory in Game Four being played at presstime yesterday.

It was a change of fortune for the 5-foot-7 Enriquez, whose two missed free throws earlier nearly doomed the Jewelers' bid to clinch the crown on homecourt.

**The scores:**

**M. LHUILLIER 74**—Dacia 16, Marata 14, Aying 9, Enriquez 8, Laygo 8, Bat-og 7, Lumantas 6, Smith 4, Cañoneo 2, Rubi 0, Garcia 0, Ocañada 0.

**ILOCOS SUR 70**—Sanders 13, Barbosa 12, Yu 11, D Mendoza 8, Rauschmayer 7, Manigo 6, Cardel 5, Hardin 4, Santa Cruz 4, Butel 0.

Quarters: 19-13, 35-25, 60-45, 74-70.

# 8th Samsung International Jungolf slated at WW east

THE EIGHTH Samsung International Junior Golf Championships, the longest-running and biggest annual gathering of Asia's young par-busters, is set next month at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's East course.

Organizer Edgardo "Boy" Cantada announced yesterday the participation of a strong field from seven countries for the tournament he launched in 1998 to provide an international event for juniors all over the world.

Cantada, who will be assisted again by his son Gerard in handling the tournament set Jan. 12-14, also expressed his gratitude to Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp., through its president and CEO Sang Youl Eom, for supporting the event as the title sponsor for the third straight year.

Thailand's Junior Golf Promotion Club is sending the biggest delegation with 18 players followed by Hong Kong with 12.

Other entries come from Malaysia's Sport Excel, the Golf Association of the Republic of China, Indonesia, South Korea and Singapore.

"We expect around 60 foreign participants," said Cantada.

A number of slots from the Jungolf Foundation have been reserved through an invitation extended to its president Luigi Tabuena. Interested players may call Gerard at 0917-8332353.

Edsa Shangri-La is the tournament's official hotel while Cebu Pacific is the official airline in the three-day championships where everything is absolutely free.

# S'woods Chairman's Cup today

A RECORD field of 500 players will dispute the biggest windfall of prizes in the history of Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club's Chairman's Cup which unfolds today at the Masters and Legends courses designed by golfing great Jack Nicklaus in Carmona, Cavite.

The Sports and Games Committee headed by chair Freddie Mendoza, in cooperation with presenters Mitsubishi-Diamond Motors, Royal Caribbean, Northwest Airlines, Thai Airways, Wilson Sports and Globe Platinum, is spearheading the annual tournament.

Mendoza said a bevy of exciting hole-in-one prizes, worth P4 million, are up for grabs in the two-day, 18-hole medal play, an event in honor of club chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña.

SOBREPEÑA

The prizes include a Mitsubishi Lancer GLX from Diamond Motors, an eight-day, seven-night Caribbean cruise and world business-class tickets via Royal Caribbean and Northwest Airline, a Bangkok holiday package from Thai Airways, a Club Car DS golf cart from Turf Company, and an iron set from Wilson Sports.

These prizes would initially be at stake as hole-in-one prizes at the par-3s of both courses. But if nobody makes an ace, these items will be raffled off.

Shotgun tee-off times for both days are 10:30 a.m. at the Legends and 11 a.m. at the Masters.

# Empire King rules

SENSATIONAL Empire King scored one of the closest and dramatic victories in the 32-year history of the Presidential Gold Cup races when he beat West Bound in a photo finish at the Santa Ana Park last Sunday.

It was another major triumph for Empire King after ruling the Marho Breeders Cup Colt Mile two weeks ago. Last June and July, he captured the Jaime Ongpin Cup and Horseman's Cup, the second and third legs, respectively, of the Philippine Triple Crown series. They were all held at the Santa Ana Park.

"He's in top condition," said veteran Jeff Ladiana, Empire King's regular jockey after Sunday's hairline win. "This victory is the best gift I will ever have on Christmas."

The second favorite in sales, three-year-old Empire King (Perfect Halo-Carto Nueve by El Gran Señor) won the P1.5 million first prize of this yearend classic sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and supervised by the Philippine Racing Commission. Luckless West Bound, ridden by jockey Eldie Salvador, pocketed P500,000. Red Star Rising finished third and settled for P250,000.

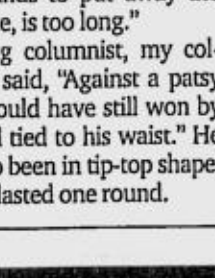
Owned by David Lee, Empire King covered the punishing 2,050-meter distance in 2:12.6, slower than his 2:09.8 clocking when he topped last July's Horseman's Cup held on a muddy track.

Considered as heir apparent to super horse Wind Blown of the star-studded Hermie Esguerra stable, Empire King belongs to a family of stakes winners.

He is a full brother to the great Baccarat and a half brother to undisputed sprint champion Ariba King. Overall, Empire King's excellent inbreeding has given him speed, endurance and versatility on the track, making him a worthy successor to the fabled Wind Blown.

***

**CLEAN LIVING**


*Manolo R. Iñigo*

**MISLEADING?** The print ad congratulating Manny Pacquiao for his recent KO victory is a bit exaggerated. There is no question that Pacquiao is a great boxer, the pride of every Filipino, but to call him the "world's best" after stopping an obscure boxer from Thailand is misleading. How can you call Pacquiao the "world's best" when he only beat an undistinguished opponent?

As Tito Talao of Tempo wrote: "Not only was his Thai opponent overmatched for Pacquiao in every department, the guy clearly was nowhere near the class of the Mexican warriors sent to the canvas by the Filipino fighter's hammer fists. Four rounds to put away the poor fellow, if you ask me, is too long."

Another hard-fighting columnist, my colleague Al S. Mendoza, said, "Against a patsy like Fahsan, Pacquiao could have still won by KO even with one hand tied to his waist." He noted that had Pacquiao been in tip-top shape, Fahsan would not have lasted one round.

# Raptors upset Timberwolves

**TORONTO—Chris Bosh had a season-high 24 points and 14 rebounds in Toronto's 96-90 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday, in a game in which the Raptors' Matt Bonner was ejected for flagrantly fouling Kevin Garnett.**

After Bonner knocked Garnett to the floor with 5:24 left in the fourth, Garnett went after the rookie. Official Anthony Jordan and Raptors coach Sam Mitchell held Garnett back, but Latrell Sprewell ran toward Bonner and pushed him.

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 12 of his 25 points in less than three minutes of the third quarter and Ira Newble added a season-high 18 as Cleveland won its ninth straight at home, 112-88.

In Boston, Carmelo Anthony's 15-foot (4.5-meter) jumper with 3.6 seconds remaining gave Denver a 100-99 win over the Celtics.

In Washington, Dwyane Wade had 29 points and nine assists as Miami won its sixth straight game, 98-83, over Washington.

In New York, Chauncey Billups hit two freethrows with 2.6 seconds left in Detroit's 94-93 triumph over the Knicks.

In New Orleans, Dan Dickau scored a career-best 23 points and New Orleans won its first home game of the season, 98-89, over Golden State.

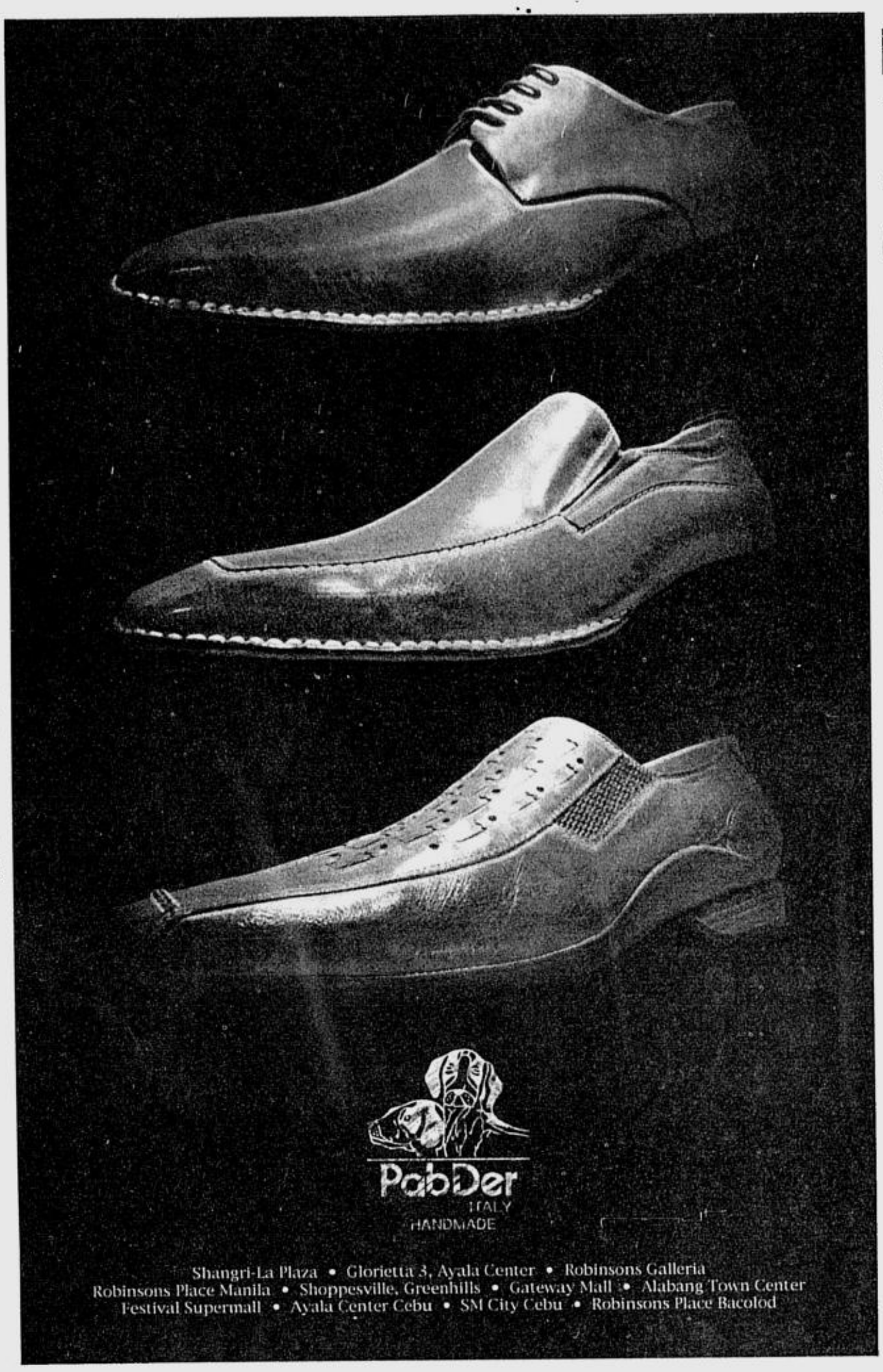
GARNETT

In Memphis, Tennessee, Eddy Curry had 20 points, while Kirk Hinrich and Ben Gordon each had 15 to lift Chicago past Memphis, 96-88.

In Houston, Tracy McGrady had 25 points and Yao Ming scored 23 to lead Houston to a 92-69 rout of Atlanta.

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 24 points and 14 rebounds to lead San Antonio to a 94-91 squeaker over Orlando.

In Phoenix, Joe Johnson had a season-high 30 points, and Phoenix improved to a league-best 19-3 after crushing Utah, 108-86. *AP*

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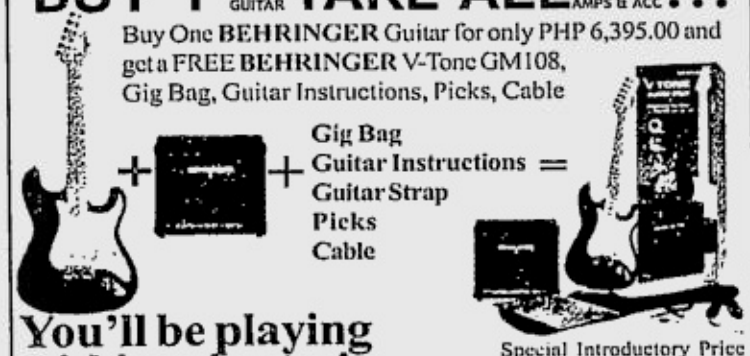
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## Pasay derby on today

MORE than 80 heart-pounding matches will spice up the grand championship of the Pasko sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby which starts at 1 p.m. today. After two days of action, 22 participants from a field of 109 remained unbeaten with two victories each. Backing up the event are sponsors Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free. About 30 new participants will field straight four cocks today. Another 4-cock derby will be on Dec. 20, followed by the Super One-Cock Ulutan on Jan. 12. For other inquiries, contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

# 'Warm-up' MMFF workshops held in Baguio

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

SOME weeks ago, **Chinggoy Alonzo** asked us if we would want to conduct a theater or film workshop in Baguio City this month, as part of a "warm-up" series of activities leading to the screening in Baguio of the official entries to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival, starting Dec. 25.

We readily accepted Chinggoy's invitation, because we've been doing workshops all over the country, anyway, so why not in Baguio, as well?

Also, the country's summer capital has been one of our favorite places through the years, so another chance to visit it was most welcome.

Since Chinggoy said that Baguio's many masscom and performing arts students and aficionados were eager to get updated inputs on their chosen fields of interest, we agreed to do *two* workshops—on acting and film appreciation.

Last Friday, we woke up bright and early to be driven to Baguio by Mr. **David** in his really splendid van, which had all of the amenities for pleasant and even luxurious travel.

We and our friends **Willie** and **Arlina Onglao** enjoyed the wonderful ride, and thanked Mr. David profusely for the memorable experience.

Arriving at the Baguio Country Club, we were met by Chinggoy and Tonywacs (**Tony Romawac**), director for arts and culture of the Baguio Convention Center. Since Chinggoy had been suddenly called back to Manila for a meeting, Tonywacs would have us in his charge, and he turned out to be a great host and coordinator.

Since our acting workshop was scheduled for that very afternoon, we hurriedly changed our shirt, grabbed our thick coat (Baguio weather would be real cool at this time of the year, we had been warned), and off we were driven by volunteer guide **Anthony** to the University of Baguio.

We had lunch with some UB officials (UPs **Armand Galimba**, **Perfecto Lopez** and **Ernie Puguon**, and Liberal Arts department head **Teresita de Guzman**, who warmly welcomed us to the university, which is owned by the Bautista family.

They informed us that our workshoppers came from several colleges and universities in Baguio, and we liked the idea of students and teachers from different schools interacting creatively with each other.

When we got to the venue for the acting workshop, however, we saw a streamer that billed it as a "theater workshop," so we agreed on a compromise with the workshoppers: We would start with acting, but later move on to the other theater disciplines.

The workshop had a bumpy start, because some of the students were passive and contented themselves with just taking notes, while we want all of our students to actively participate, speak up and put their opinions out there, to be either applauded or shot down.

Thus, we encountered some resistance, but the session eventually warmed up when we got to the nitty gritty of real acting—believing, reacting, etc.

We saw that, for some of the workshoppers, the teaching tacks we were taking were new, and even threatening. But we sallied on despite all doubts and fears, and the mid-afternoon break found the group in a dither of no longer fretful activity.

During the break, we were provided with more details about the Baguio Film festival:

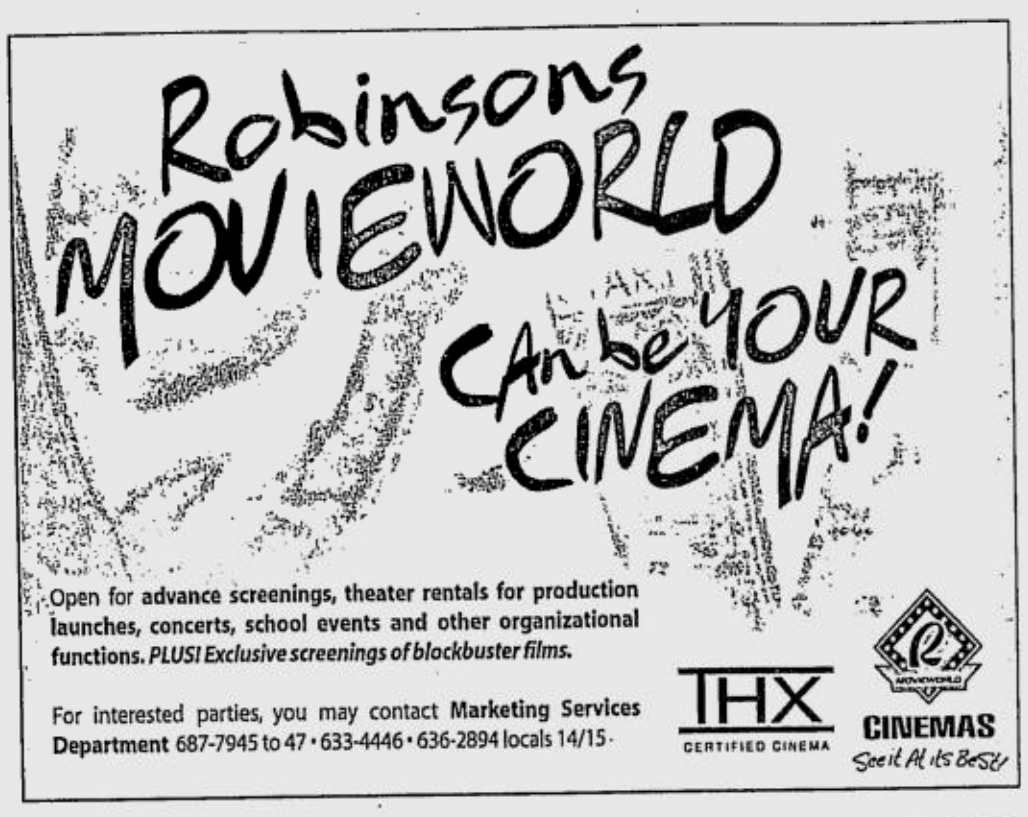
The festival's warm-up cultural activities began last Dec. 8 and 9 with "Batang Pro," a play produced by ABS-CBN at the Baguio Convention Center.

On Dec. 12, the Maryknoll Sanctuary Choir had a choral concert at the center, which was also the venue on Dec. 13 of a college-level skit competition. On the same day, acclaimed screenwriter **Roy Iglesias** held a workshop on writing for the movies.

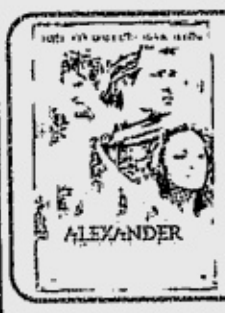
On Dec. 15, there was a big parade of stars participated in by the lead players of the eight MMFF entries. At 7 p.m., there was a glittering Sponsors' Night celebration at the Baguio Country Club's skating rink.

On Dec. 16, a stage play, "Unity and Brotherhood," was performed by the Almaarif Educational Center at the Convention Center. From Dec. 17 to 24, vintage films will be screened, again at the center, and other workshops will be held.

From Dec. 25 to Jan 8, 2005, the MMFF entries will be screened in different Baguio City theaters. On Jan. 8, a recognition night will be held, during which National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts **Eddie Romero** will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement award. And the Baguio Film Festival Trade Fair is ongoing until Jan. 8. *(To be concluded)*



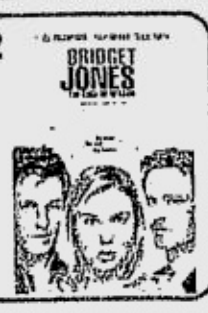
**| whattowatch |**




**ALEXANDER** Subject to MTRCB RATING

SM Bacoor Cinema 4 | SM Cebu Cinema 2

MTRCB Rating: PG 13 **BRIDGET JONES 2**




SM Davao Cinema 2 | SM Baguio Cinema 2 | SM Cagayan Cinema 3

**CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS** MTRCB Rating: G

SM Pampanga Cinema 6 | SM Davao Cinema 6 | SM Cebu Cinema 3 | SM Iloilo Cinema 3




**PASIYAM** SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

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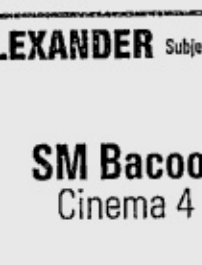


**NATIONAL TREASURE** MTRCB Rating: G

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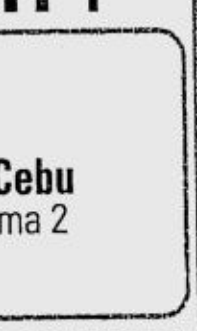


**SURVIVING CHRISTMAS** MTRCB Rating: G

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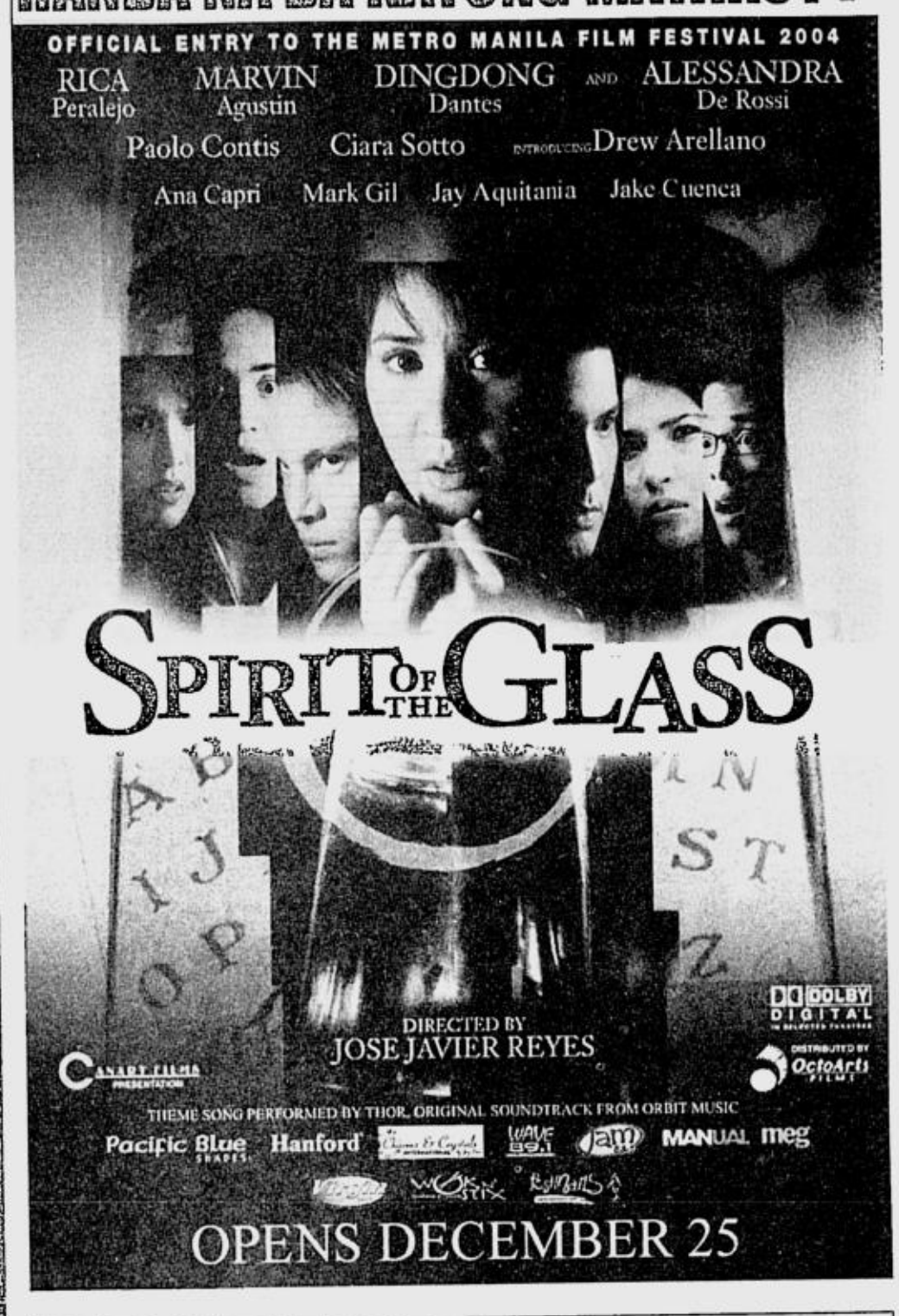
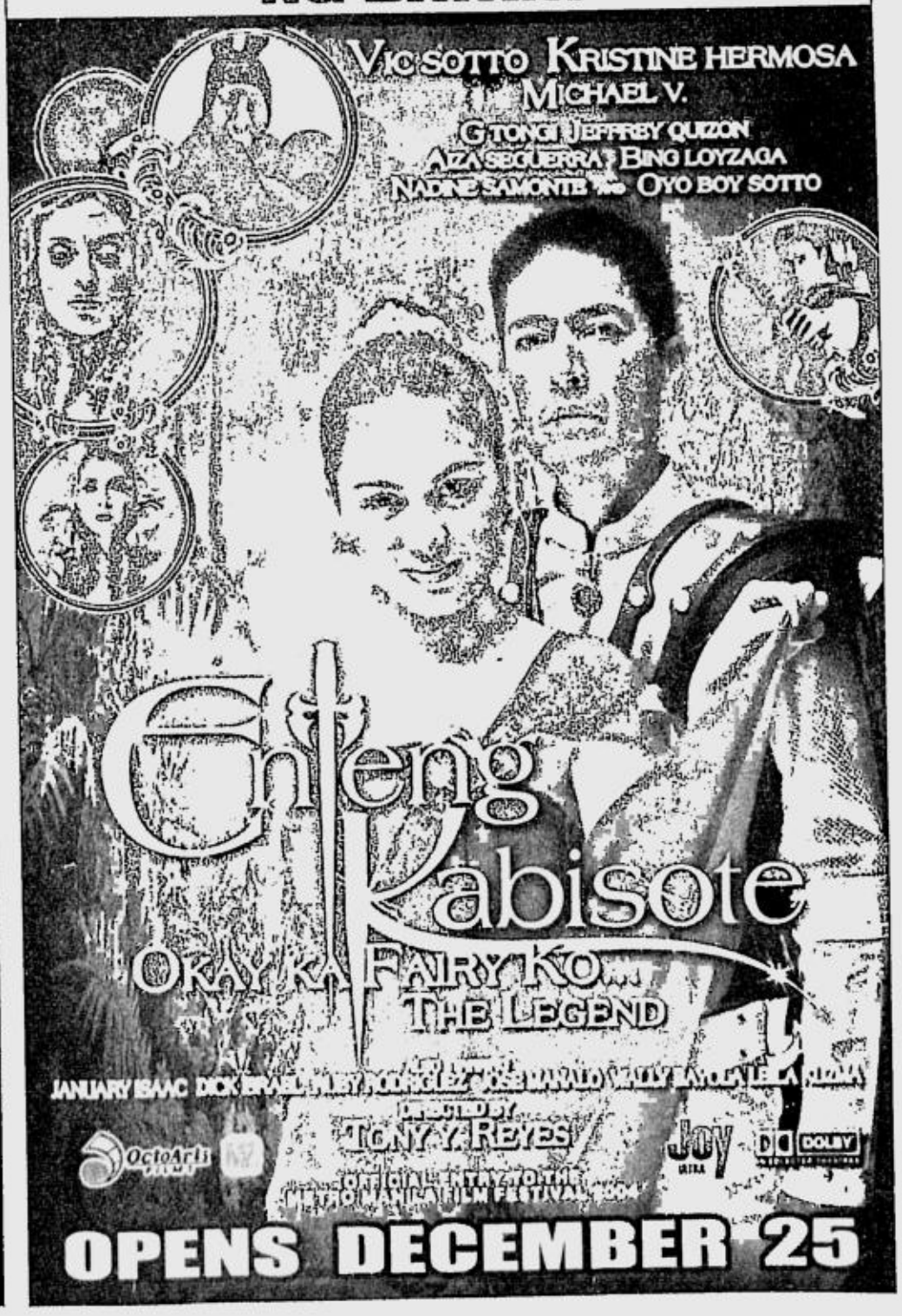
**MAY NAGPAPARAMDAM, MAY NAGPAPAKITA HANDA NA BA KAYONG MATAKOT?**




**ANG TANGING HERO NG BAYAN!**

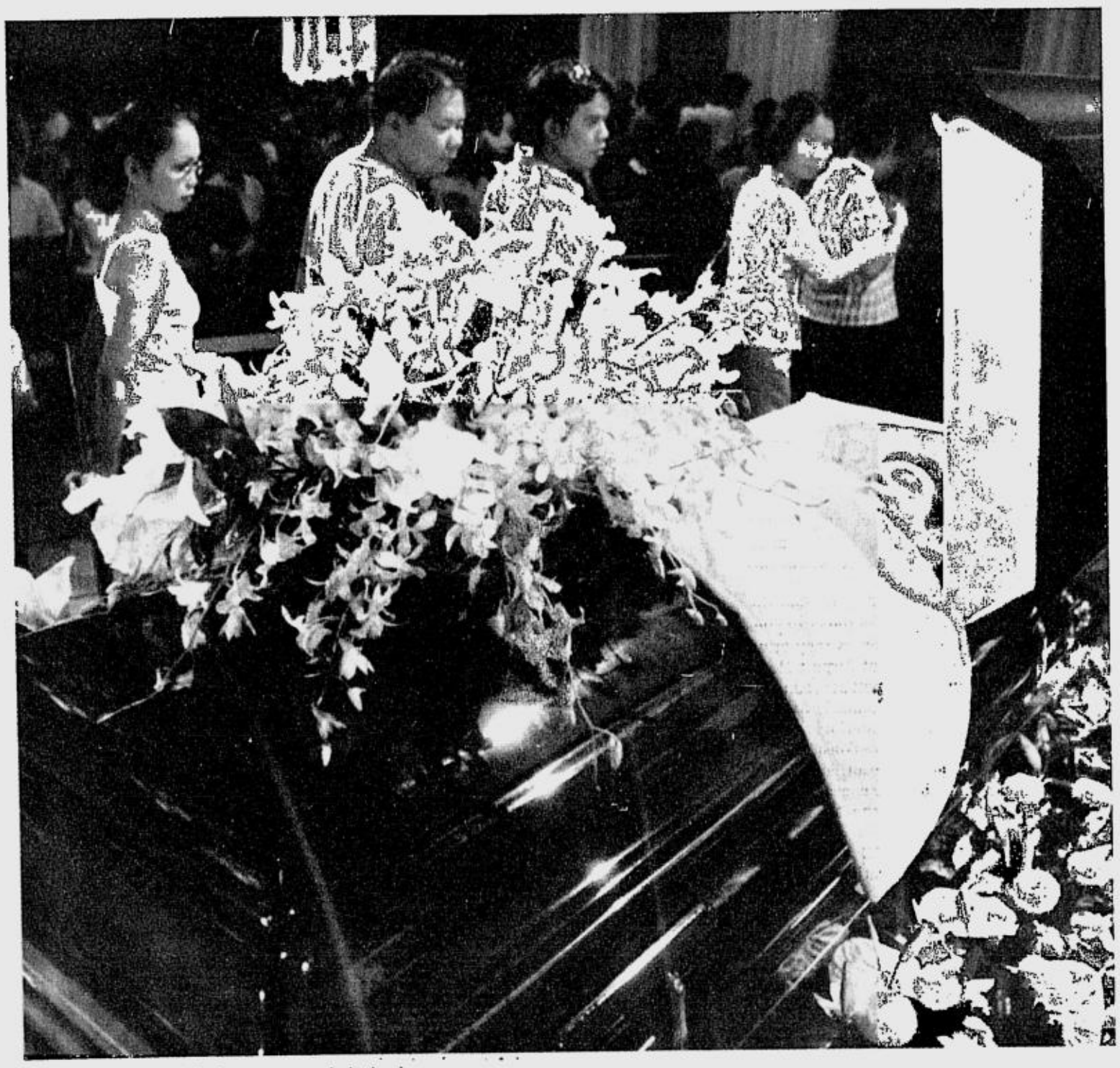



## SHOW TIME

### *MPO, wine at Robinsons*

THE MUSIC of the 10-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra fills the halls of Robinsons Place Lipa today, Dec. 17, and Robinsons Place Manila tomorrow, Dec. 18, at 5 p.m. Mallers and shoppers will be treated to the repertoire that the talented musicians have lined up especially for the holiday season.

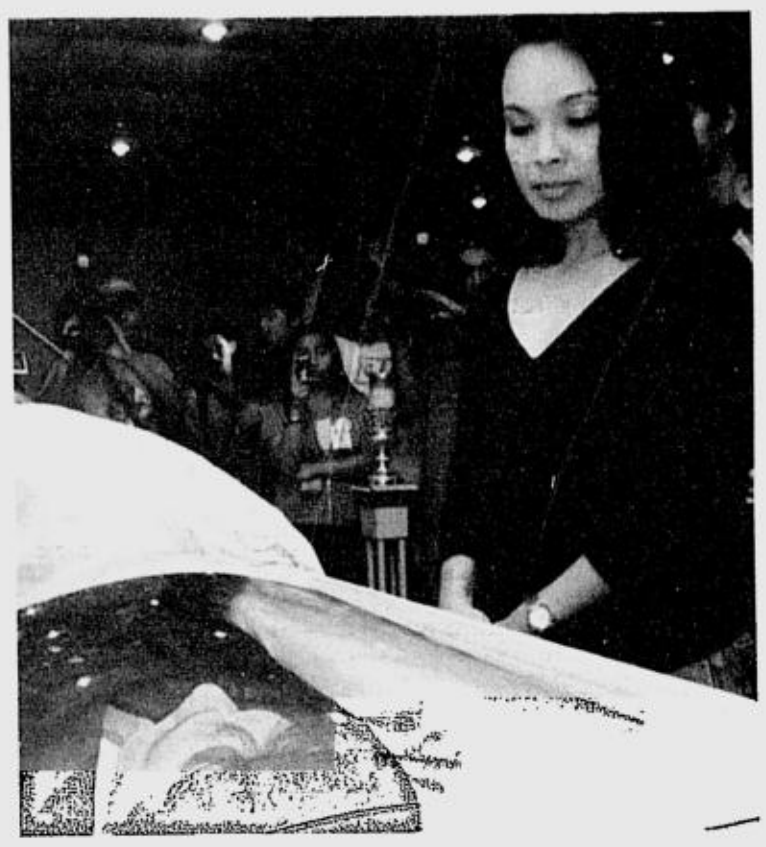
The musical treat is presented in cooperation with Novelino Wines. Sampling and and selling of the popular wines will be held during these events.



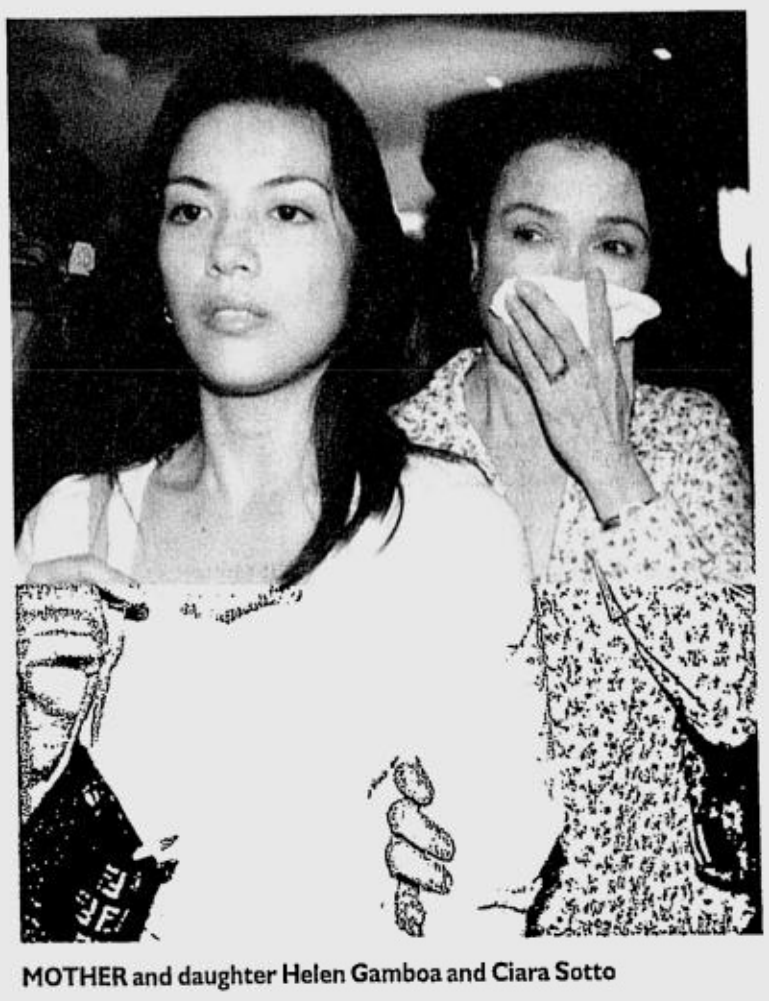
THANKFUL WHISPER. Fans murmur their thanks.

LORNA T. grieves.

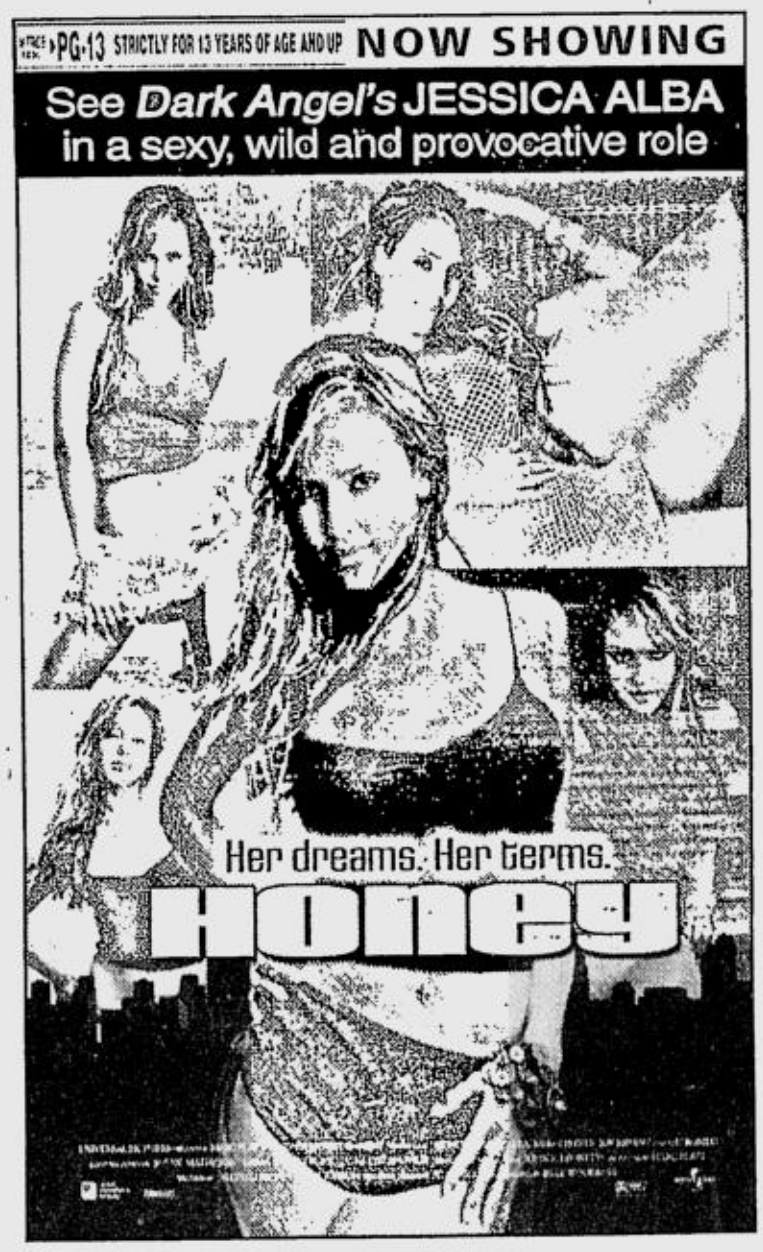
KING'S WIDOW. Susan Roces



EX-RUNNING MATE. Loren Legarda



MOTHER and daughter Helen Gamboa and Ciara Sotto



# 'Thank you, FPJ'

From page A32

hold necrological services for FPJ, who had been a staunch supporter of the group.

FPJ was the first to give the group funds to hold its first congress last October. As usual, FPJ did not want it known that he gave.

## Ronian summoned

Josie Tagle, a longtime friend of FPJ, said it would be better if the actor's supporters and sympathizers gave cash or food instead of wreaths.

Tagle is one of the people in charge of keeping the flow of sandwiches continuous during the wake. She said she would continue making the sandwiches for as long as there are people who give funds.

"We need food to feed the people who want to be with their idol during his last days on earth," said Tagle in Filipino. "They refuse to leave his side."

Ronian Poe, FPJ's son with actress Ana Marin, was spotted at the back of the church. The young man looked lost and alone.

Tagle said FPJ's wife, Susan Roces, had asked for Ronian last Sunday while the actor was comatose at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

"[Susan] told somebody to look for Ronian and tell him to enter the ICU to be with his father," Tagle said.

## Pledges for NMPP

Echoing FPJ's concern for the common people, actors and producers have pledged sums of money and food for the NMPP's gift-giving activities on Dec. 29.

Actor and Sen. Bong Revilla pledged 30 sacks of rice. Kris Aquino promised to donate boxes of Purefood Chunky Corned Beef.

Actors Richard Gomez and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos vowed to contribute money or food.

Producers Vic del Rosario, Lily Monteverde, Malou Santos and Wilson Tieng offered money and food.

If FPJ were alive, he would have been the first in line with his contribution.

# Tours, Leisure & Chow

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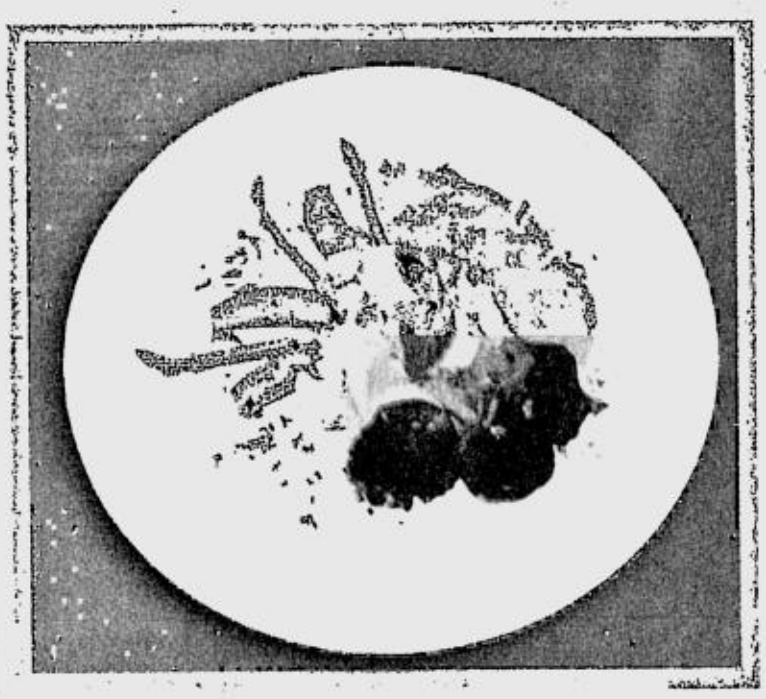

# City Garden Suites Holiday Season parade

CITY Garden Suites, the most preferred standard class hotel in Manila, offers Holiday Season's special promotions.

Dance and celebrate the season with reasonable Christmas party packages starting at P395 nett per person. The package includes choice of buffet menu for lunch or dinner with drinks and use of function room amenities.

At Café Miranda, bring your family and friends and enjoy "December Delights" for only P475. We have prepared sumptuous meals that will surely delight the eyes and the palate; such as Grilled Chicken Breast with Garlic Mashed Potato and Lemon Mustard Sauce, Pork Tenderloin with Roasted Apples, Onions and Raisin Sauce or Slow-cooked Salmon with Shitake Mushroom and Pineapple Ginger Salsa.

City Garden Suites is located at 1158 A. Mabini Street, Ermita, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, please call 536-1451 or visit our website at www.citygardenhotels.com.

# Children's Choir at Dusit Hotel Nikko

MUSIC throughout the ages has been a part of celebrations and festivals. And what is the most important celebration of all? The Christmas Season!

It has been a tradition at Dusit Hotel Nikko to have children as their partner in celebrating the Holiday Season. Listen to their angelic voices at the hotel's posh lobby as they serenade the hotel guests every night, 6 p.m. starting Nov. 27 to Dec. 23.

Performing children come from various schools whose ages range from 5 to 12 years old. Watch the students on Dec. 17 - Paref Woodrose School Inc; Dec. 18 - De la Salle Santiago Zobel; Dec. 19 - Ateneo de Manila Grade School; Dec. 20 - Lourdes School of Mandaluyong; Dec. 21 - Colegio de San Juan de Letran; Dec. 22 - Golden Values School and Don Bosco School of Sta. Mesa on Dec. 23.

# The Bellevue Hotel New Year Party with Mitch Valdez

JOIN the most explosive New Year's Countdown with Mitch Valdez as she opens the Bellevue Grand Ballroom to the public this Dec. 31 for the very first time. Rather than spending the New Year at home, get away for a night of cheer and celebration at Alabang's premier party venue, The Bellevue Grand Ballroom.

Bid a fond goodbye to 2004 and start the Year of the Rooster afresh with rollicking laughter and great music as one of the country's most celebrated singer-comedians dishes out all-time favorite retro songs, hard rockin' 70's tunes plus musical gags and comedic commentary.

Mitch Valdez is a veteran performer who always gives an unforgettable performance in her SRO shows both here and abroad. Her voice, as well as her comedy sketches that are both intelligent and unpretentious, have won the praise of many.

Greet 2005 with a bang with your loved ones close by only at The Bellevue Hotel, Alabang's fun family destination. Entrance fee of P750 net includes one standard drink. Call 771-8181 loc 8113 or 8107 for inquiries.

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On Dec. 24 and 25, Christmas Dinner will be served at the Café on the Ridge. Specially prepared by guest Chef Mikel Arruiz, the sumptuous set menu comes with a glass of wine (P650 net*, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.). The café will also be hosting the Holiday Feast Buffet the following morning, December 25. A lavish buffet spread of the season's best dishes. (P750 net*, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.). After that big delicious lunch, kids can join Santa at the Lobby Lounge for fun games, activities and more surprises with the Kiddie Holiday Hooray!

Feel the true spirit of Christmas at Taal Vista Hotel. For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Sales Office at (632) 751-3088/89 or Taal Vista at (632) 886-4325 or (046) 413-1000. Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties. Visit www.taalvista.com or www.fuegohotels.com

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Editor Louie C. Camino
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# 'Thank you, FPJ'

By Nini Valera

"THANK you for paying for my hospital bills."
"Thank you for sending me to school."

"Thank you for giving me money when I could not feed my family."

These are just some of the messages, mostly said in low voices, by the people who lined up patiently for hours and streamed into the church to look at FPJ and brush his coffin gently with their hands last Wednesday morning.

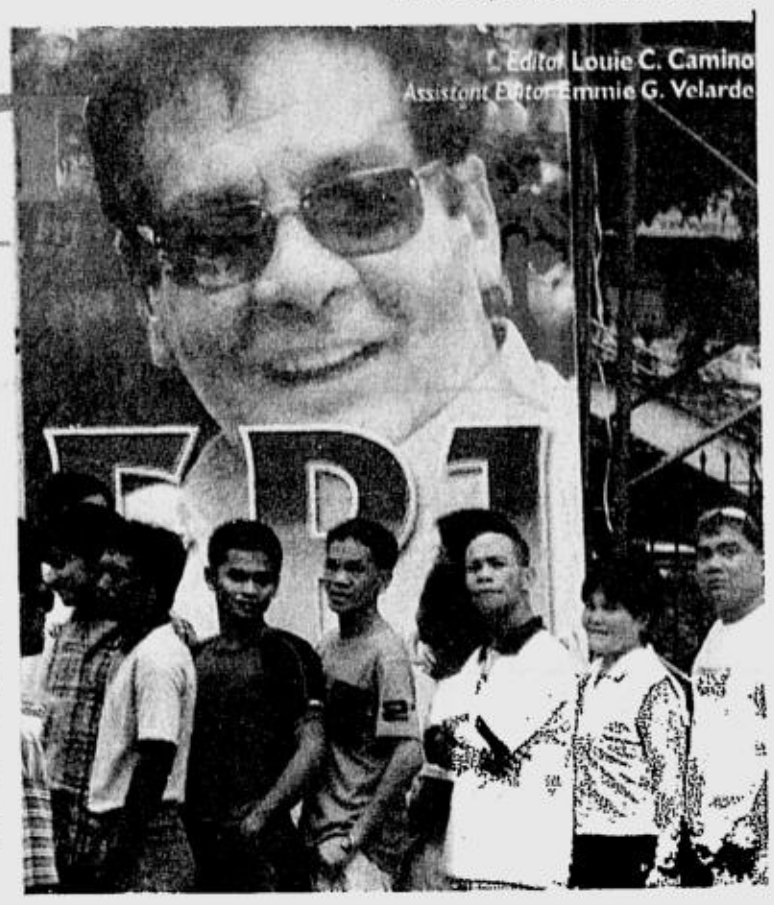
FPJ's remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Church on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, where thousands of fans have been coming in droves to pay their last respect to the actor, who is known for his boundless generosity.

Even a woman who did not have use of her legs crawled along the church aisle to get near the coffin of the actor, who had been lionized by the masses for portraying underdog roles in his movies.

Megastar Sharon Cuneta was advised that if she would send a wreath to Fernando Poe Jr., she should not include the name of her husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, in the boquet.

According to an aide of the Poe family, this advice supposedly came from Armida Siguion-Reyna after the wreaths sent by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia were destroyed by political supporters of FPJ last Tuesday night.

But Conrad Poe, FPJ's brother, said he does not condone the act, and told fans and supporters that FPJ would not have wanted it to happen.



GRATEFUL LINE. Fans and supporters pay their final respect.

LOST AND ALONE. Ronian Poe

## 'We've lost everything'

Donato Casulok, a member of the lighting crew of the actor's FPJ Productions, sat outside the area reserved for VIPs, sipping soft drink from a can. He offered INQUIRER Entertainment a drink, saying the refreshments—which included bottled water, tea, soda, instant noodles and pan de sal— were for the mourners.

San Miguel Corp. donated at least a truckload of bottled water and soft drinks to be served during the wake. The drinks are stored in three refrigerators that the company apparently also supplied for the wake.

FPJ had been one of the endorsers of San Miguel Beer Pale Pilsen, the flagship product of the food conglomerate.

The only convenience missing in the well-organized wake were portable toilets.

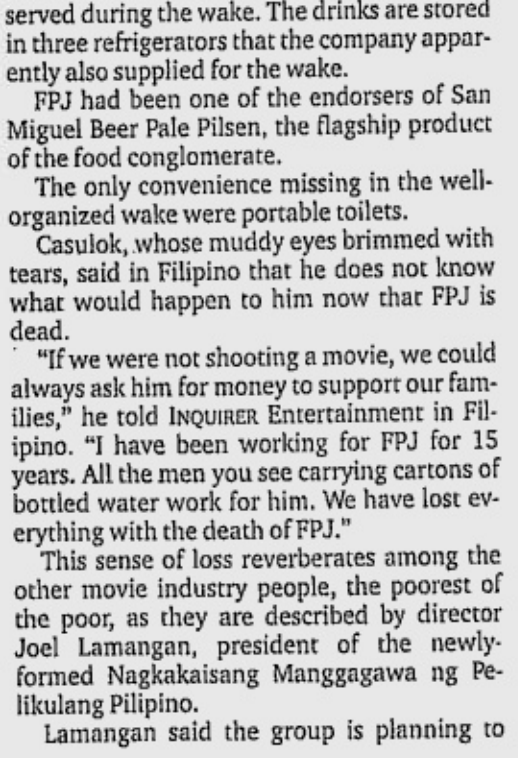
Casulok, whose muddy eyes brimmed with tears, said in Filipino that he does not know what would happen to him now that FPJ is dead.

"If we were not shooting a movie, we could always ask him for money to support our families," he told INQUIRER Entertainment in Filipino. "I have been working for FPJ for 15 years. All the men you see carrying cartons of bottled water work for him. We have lost everything with the death of FPJ."

This sense of loss reverberates among the other movie industry people, the poorest of the poor, as they are described by director Joel Lamangan, president of the newly-formed Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Pelikulang Pilipino.

Lamangan said the group is planning to

'THANK/ A30



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# Stars bring fun, not egos, to 'Ocean's 12'

PARIS—George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Julia Roberts and Elliott Gould may all be A-list celebrities used to top billing, but when it came to playing in "Ocean's 12" they brought fun, not egos, to the set, according to the movie's director Steven Soderbergh.

ROBERTS

"We have a whole 'life's-too-short' attitude to making movies," Soderbergh told a Paris media conference promoting the European opening of the film, a sequel to the 2001 heist flick "Ocean's 11."

Pitt, sitting alongside Damon, co-star Don Cheadle and producer Jerry Weintraub, added: "I understand the image of egos in Hollywood and all that, but it's rarely the truth... We all just got along really well and had a laugh."

That cameraderie and good-natured ribbing among the cast came across in the conference, with Cheadle piping up to answer questions to Pitt and Damon with his trademark humor.

## X-rated sequel

CLOONEY

Yes, there would be a sequel to "Ocean's 12," but it would take an X-rated tack and would be called "The Porn Identity," Cheadle deadpanned, making a dig at Damon's spy films "The Bourne Identity" and "The Bourne Supremacy."

"Matt was still Jason Bourne" on set, Pitt joked.

Prompting Damon to reply: "Seeing as I didn't wear a skirt in my last movie, I feel like I've won." (A reference to Pitt's turn as tunic-wearing Achilles in the big-budget "Troy".)

ZETA-JONES

Buoyed by similar verbal dueling in front of the cameras, "Ocean's 12" zips across several European locales and rely on the megawattage put out by some of the biggest names in Hollywood.

Critics in the United States, where the film opened on Friday to instant box-office success, have called the film a lighthearted romp with little substance but engaging interplay between the stars.

## That's a movie?

For the New York Times, it was "enjoyable (but) unabashedly trivial," and the online publication Slate said it relied on "momentum, the twinkle of stars, and that's about it."

PITT

The actors themselves acknowledged the movie was the equivalent of a vacation: eschewing their $20-million salaries and creative control clauses to play off one another in a project where champagne, fast cars and sexy clothes counted more than the often disposable story line.

"I'm not even sure we were making a movie," said Pitt.

GOULD

The ensemble reprised their characters from the original film but throw out several of the conventions surrounding heist films—or many other films for that matter—and include many in-jokes and a cameo or two.

The characters often come across as simply playing themselves—in one scene, literally so.

## New twists

In the new film, the crew of the original heist are brought together again when their wealthy casino-owning victim (Andy Garcia) forces them to pay him back through a number of robberies in Europe.

Along the way, Pitt's character Rusty catches up with an ex-girlfriend (played by Catherine Zeta-Jones) who is now a top Eurocop, and Clooney's Danny Ocean has to match wits with a wily French thief played by Vincent Cassel.

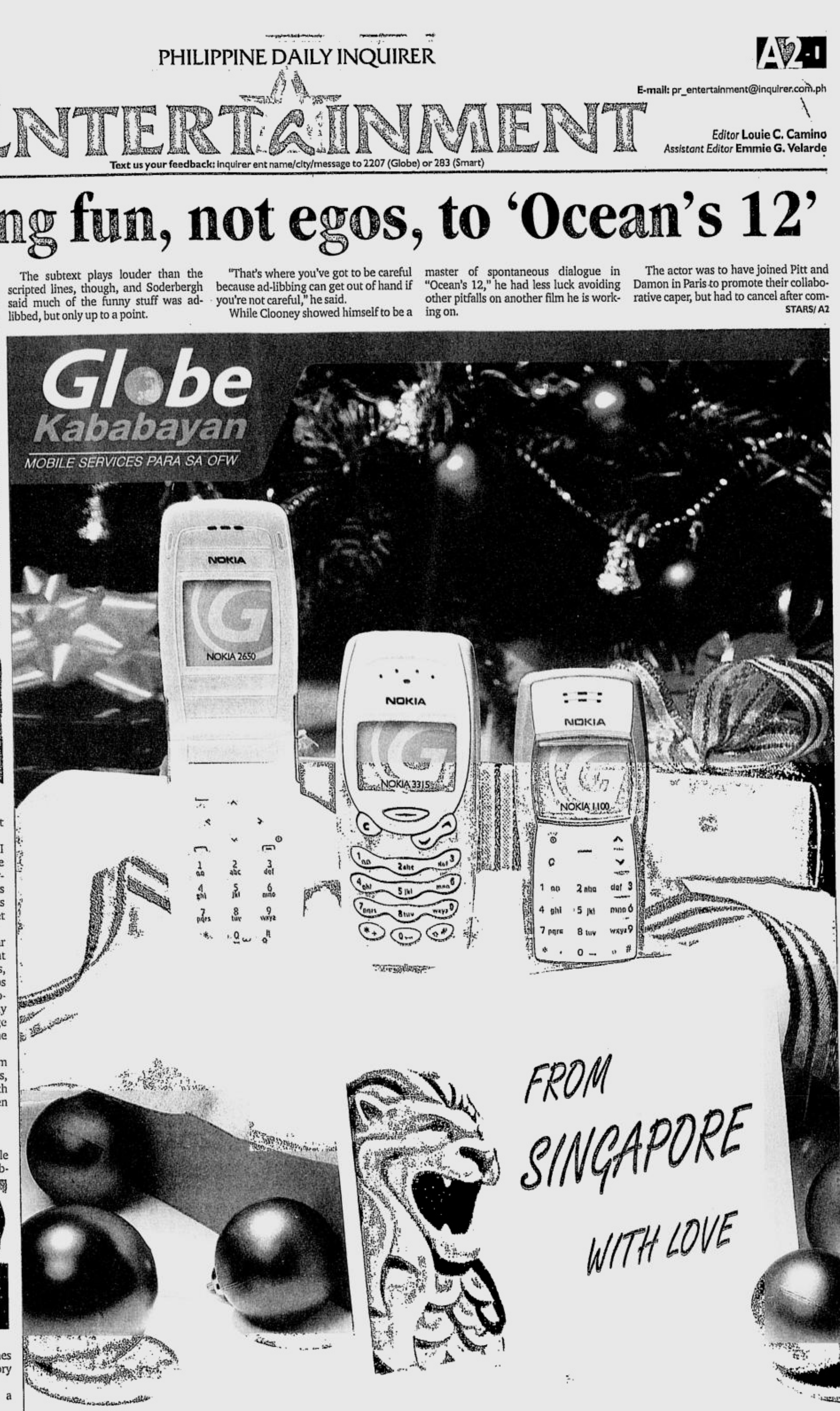
The subtext plays louder than the scripted lines, though, and Soderbergh said much of the funny stuff was ad-libbed, but only up to a point.

"That's where you've got to be careful because ad-libbing can get out of hand if you're not careful," he said.

While Clooney showed himself to be a master of spontaneous dialogue in "Ocean's 12," he had less luck avoiding other pitfalls on another film he is working on.

The actor was to have joined Pitt and Damon in Paris to promote their collaborative caper, but had to cancel after com-

STARS/ A2

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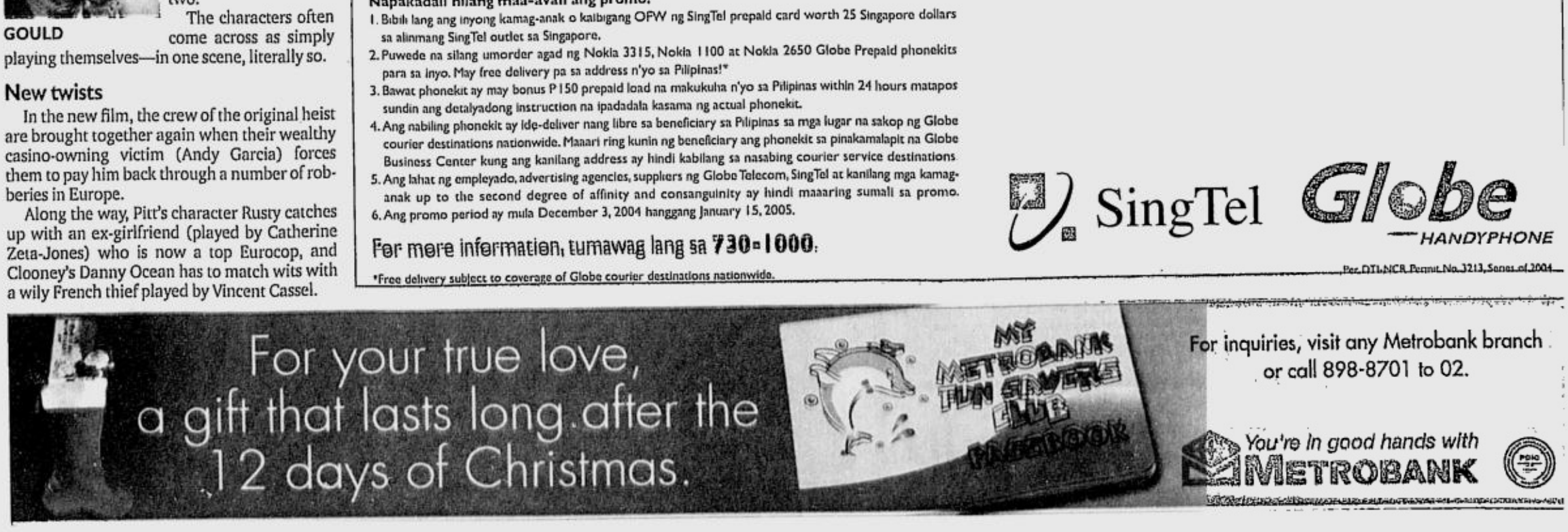

# See'em all!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

| ATC (Alabang Town Center) | G1 (Glorietta 1) | G4 (Glorietta 4) | | GB3 (Greenbelt 3) | ACC (Ayala Center Cebu) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 BAD SANTA | 1 GEORGE & THE DRAGON | 1 NATIONAL TREASURE | 5 THE POLAR EXPRESS | 1 BRIDGET JONES 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 | 1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS |
| 2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON | 2 PASIYAM | 2 BIRTH | 6 BAD SANTA | 2 BAD SANTA 12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:00, 9:05, 11:10 | 2 PASIYAM |
| 3 BIRTH | 3 HAROLD & KUMAR | 3 BRIDGET JONES: 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 | 7 ALEXANDER | 3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 | 3 OUT OF REACH |
| 4 THE POLAR EXPRESS | | 4 2046 | | 4 BIRTH 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 | 4 TAXI |
| 5 NATIONAL TREASURE | 4 HONEY | GB1 (Greenbelt 1) | | 5 NATIONAL TREASURE 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 | 5 HIGHWAYMEN |
| | | 1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40 | | | |
| | | 2 BAD SANTA 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45 | | | |

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| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | AYALA CENTER CEBU |
|---|---|---|
| NOKIA HOLIDAY EVENT December 17 to 19, 2004 | BLIMS/AUTOMATIC CENTER December 13 to 26, 2004 | ALADDIN & JASMINE GETS STARSTRUCK December 18 and 19, 2004 |

## Entertainment LIVE!

| Greenbelt 2 | Greenbelt 3 |
|---|---|
| GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring ACOUSTIC JIVE December 17, 7:00pm to 10:00pm | CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GREENBELT 3 The Company (Dec. 17, 8pm), Philippine Madrigal Singers (Dec. 19) |

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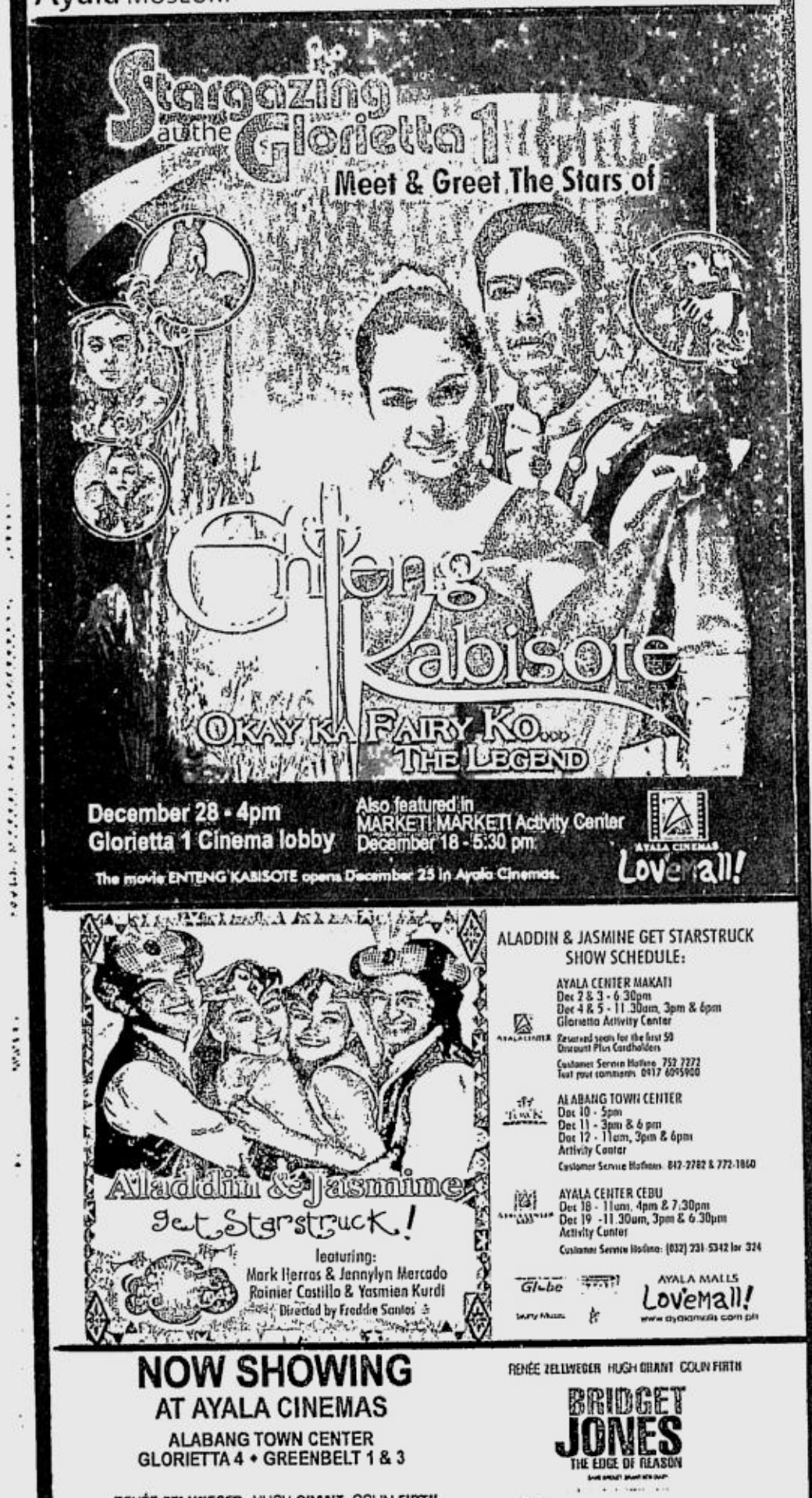
Ayala MUSEUM — Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117







ALADDIN & JASMINE GET STARSTRUCK SHOW SCHEDULE:

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Dec 4 & 5 - 11:30am, 3pm & 6pm
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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Dec 10 - 5pm
Dec 11 - 3pm & 6 pm
Dec 12 - 11am, 3pm & 6pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotlines: 842-2782 & 772-1860

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Dec 18 - 11am, 4pm & 7:30pm
Dec 19 - 11:30am, 3pm & 6:30pm
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# Disney, Miramax split looms

LOS ANGELES—Walt Disney Co., which is locked in contentious contract talks with the chiefs of its Miramax Films unit, said on Monday it expects a new direction from the art house filmmaker when the current deal with brothers Bob and Harvey Weinstein expires next year.

"The company does not expect business at its subsidiary Miramax to continue at the same level beyond the September 30, 2005 date on which the current contractual relationship with the co-chairmen (Bob and Harvey Weinstein) will end," Disney said in its annual Securities and Exchange Commission filing. "The company is currently in negotiations with the Weinsteins regarding the future of our business relationship with them."

"At this time the company is unable to determine whether projects currently in progress may be abandoned or otherwise impaired and whether there will be any material charges."

Disney and the Weinsteins have been at odds for months as the brothers' goal of expanding movie productions and budgets has collided with Disney's cost conscious aim of returning Miramax, maker of movies like "The Aviator," to its low-budget and foreign film distribution roots.

A Miramax spokesman said there were "ongoing, amicable" discussions with Disney. But industry sources have long said the contract negotiations were difficult.

Industry watchers and insiders have mulled a range of changes that could come in the relationship, with many expecting the brothers to start their own production company but Disney keeping the Miramax name, the company's library of films, and some or all of the projects under development. *Reuters*


## MOVIE GUIDE

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**Cinema 2000 Target Mall** (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 RESERVED
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3 (DTS) RESERVED

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PA-SIYAM
2 (DTS) BRIDGET JONES
3 (DOLBY) OUT OF REACH
4 POLAR EXPRESS

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall** (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 OUT OF REACH
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 PA-SIYAM

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix** (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 FIRST DAUGHTER
2 BCUZ OF U
3 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE

**Lianas MovieCity** (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) OUT OF REACH
2 TOOLBOX MURDER
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 PA-SIYAM
5 BRIDGET JONES

**Mega Center Mall** (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 BCUZ OF U
2 SAW
3 (DTS) TAXI
4 (DOLBY) OUT OF REACH

**Fiesta World Mall** (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DARKNESS
2 OUT OF REACH
3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
4 THE SIN

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown** (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SAW
2 FOREGOTTEN
3 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
4 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS

**Jade Cinema** (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 PA-SIYAM
3 (DTS EX) FIRST DAUGHTER
4 THE FOREGOTTEN

**Cine Nepo** (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 PA-SIYAM
2 CELLULAR
3 (DOLBY) THE FOREGOTTEN
4 (DTS) FIRST DAUGHTER

**Cine Nepo** (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
2 SAW
3 (DOLBY) FOREGOTTEN
4 (DTS) NATIONAL TREASURE

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1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart** (Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
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2 ALEXANDER
3 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS

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| STA. ROSA | LIPA |
|---|---|
| 1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS | 1 ALEXANDER |
| 2 DARKNESS | 2 PA-SIYAM |
| 3 BUKAS MAY UMAGA | 3 BRIDGET JONES 2 |
| 4 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2 | 4 ONE MISSED CALL |
| 5 THE FORGOTTEN | 5 SEED OF CHUCKY |

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| DASMARIÑAS | ANGELES |
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| 1 BUKAS MAY UMAGA | 1 TAXI |
| 2 THE FORGOTTEN | 2 THE GRUDGE |
| 3 CELLULAR | 3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS |
| 4 MAY | 4 OUT OF REACH |
| 5 DARKNESS | |

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|---|---|
| 1 NANG NAK | 1 THE SIN |
| 2 BIRTH | 2 BUKAS MAY UMAGA |
| 3 MAY | 3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS |
| 4 SHREK 2 | 4 TAXI |
| 5 NATIONAL TREASURE | 5 AFTER THE SUNSET |
| 6 NED KELLY | 6 DARKNESS |

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| 1 CELLULAR | 1 WHITE CHICKS |
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| 3 NATIONAL TREASURE | 3 NATIONAL TREASURE |
| 4 THE POLAR EXPRESS | 4 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS |
| 5 BRIDGET JONES 2 | 5 SAW |
| 6 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS | 6 DARKNESS |

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DAMON

# Stars bring fun, not egos...

From page A1

ing down with a back injury sustained on the set of "Syriana," a spy thriller with contempory overtones.

Both "Ocean" films were inspired by the 1960 Rat Pack film, "Ocean's 11," starring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Joey Bishop.

The latest all-star heist caper, which also stars Scott Caan of "Gone in 60 Seconds," stole top prize at the the North American box office over the weekend, getting away with $39.1 million according to box office trackers Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. *AFP*

CAAN

# ABS complaint vs...

From page A2-4

to ABS-CBN, that the planned cancellation was part of a deal struck by the Lopezes with Malacañang in exchange for the government decision to take over Maynilad Water Services Inc.

NTC Chair Ronald Solis wrote ABS-CBN on Dec. 9, saying: "The jurisdiction of the NTC over non-KBP members does not include with it the authority to regulate the operation of broadcast stations in so far as program content is concerned."

Solis said the power to regulate programs aired on radio and television stations never belonged to the NTC. Neither did the power to discipline the media outfits for any breach of ethical standard in the conduct of their operations, according to a press statement of GMA.

"Under Section 15 of EO 546, the jurisdiction of the Commission over broadcast stations pertains only to the latter's technical operations and scope," Solis said, based on GMA's press release.

## Tape the shows

The Commission cannot, under the guise of its rule making power, expand its own powers beyond what the law provides," added Solis.

However, the NTC in late September ordered all television and radio networks to tape news, talk shows, and even magazine-type programs, and preserve the record for 10 days to give the Commission basis in evaluating complaints.

Solis earlier stressed that the policy implemented in mid-October was not a form of censorship.

GMA invoked the freedom of speech and expression in reporting about the comedy king. The station also argued that major newspapers had been carrying the Dolphy story before Channel 7 picked it up.

Now the country's most profitable broadcast firm, GMA denied that it falsely reported on the Dolphy issue, that it cited no specific source, and that it failed to air the side of ABS-CBN.

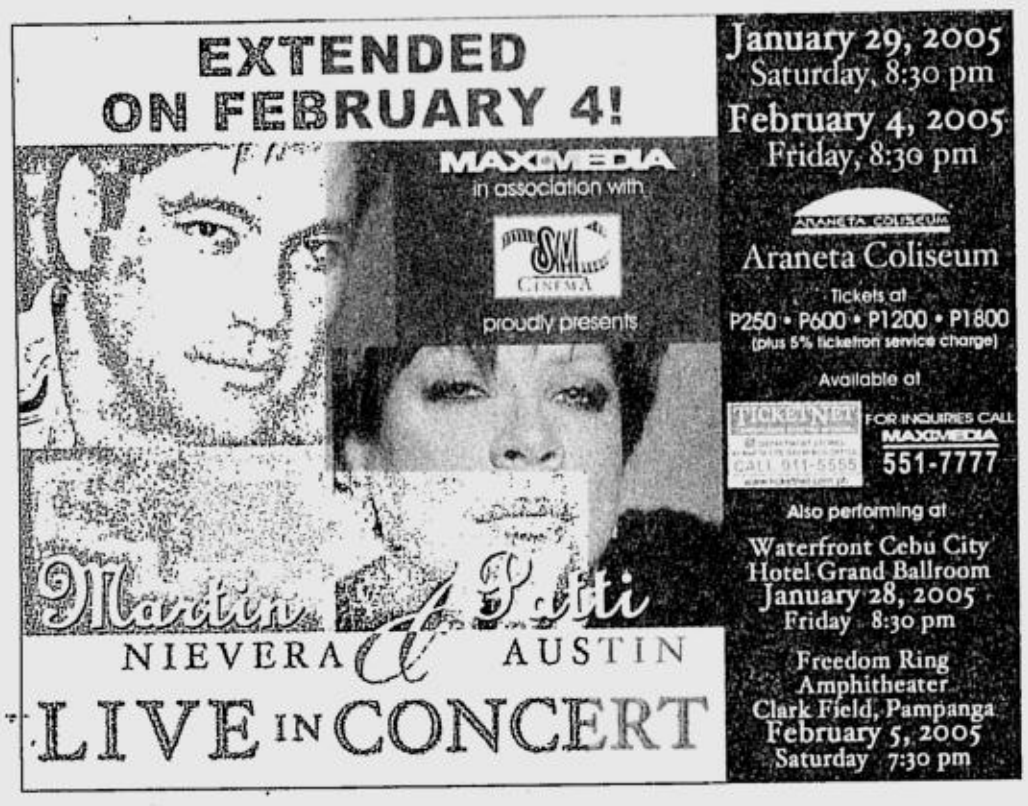
## Not applicable

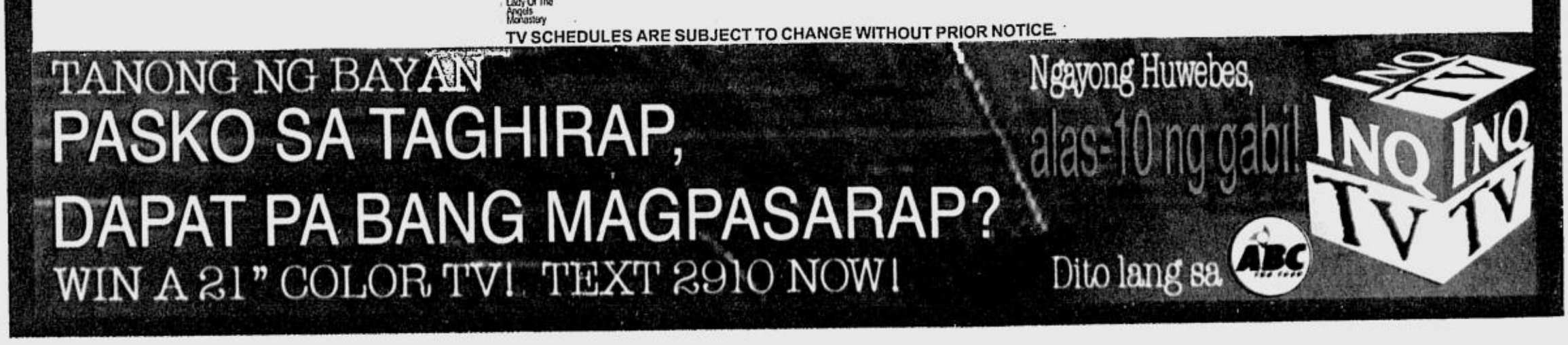
In its detailed reply to the NTC regarding the competitor's allegations, GMA also pointed out that the Television Code, which the commission said it could invoke in the case, was not applicable.

It pointed to a justice department opinion in 1999 that said NTC's regulatory powers covered only the technical aspect of the operations of broadcast networks and cable television firms.

He said that the NTC, based on the justice department's opinion, could not regulate the content of media outfits. If at all, he said, it should be the Movie Television Review and Classification Board.

The KBP's Standard Authority, a body which rules on cases filed by its members, decided on Nov. 3 the organization had no jurisdiction over dzBB, RGMA and Enriquez.



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December 21, 2004
Children's Joy Foundation
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December 22, 2004
Kaibigan Vocal Ensemble
3pm Activity Center • 5pm & 7pm Central Plaza

December 23, 2004
Philippine Symphonic Band
3pm Activity Center • 5pm & 7pm Central Plaza


# Life goes on for Ruffa, family in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey—It has been a very slow and sad past few days for me and my family back home in Manila.

A good friend, my godfather, the king of Philippine cinema, Fernando Poe Jr., passed away yesterday.

But after the weeping and the mourning, life goes on. Show those you love and care about how important they are to you. Life is sooo short. *Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas*

"GETTING ready to go to a post-Halloween party with the girls."


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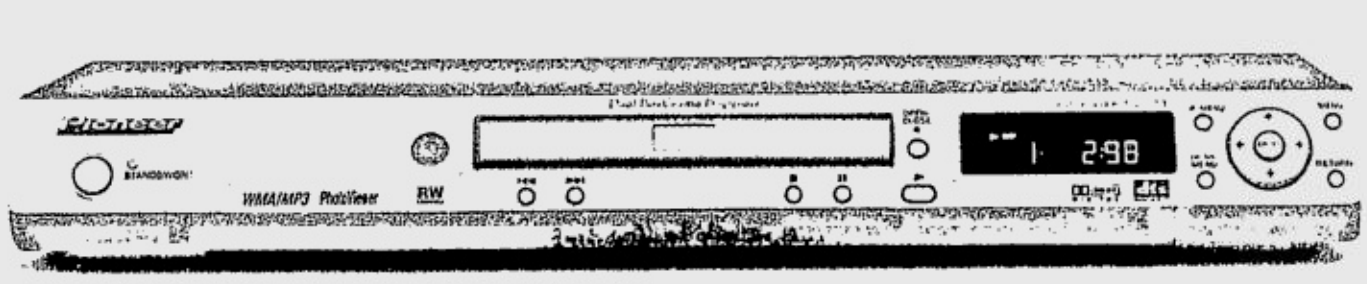

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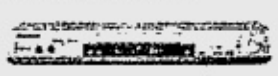
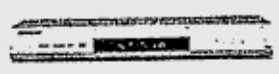
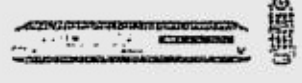


DV-373-S
DVD Straight player



DVR-320-S
DVD Recorder

DVR-520H-S
DVD Recorder with Hard Disc



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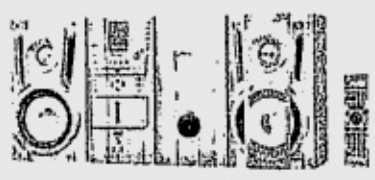
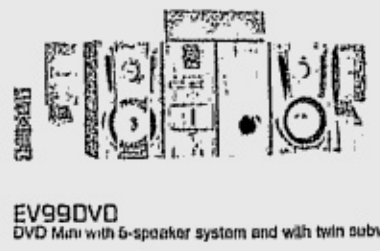
EV33DVD
DVD Mini with 2 speaker system



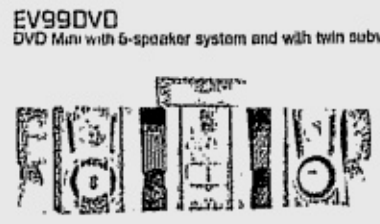
HTZ323DVD
DVD Home Theatre with 5-speaker system

EV66DVD
DVD Mini with 5-speaker system



HTZ424DVD
DVD Home Theatre with tallboy speakers

EV99DVD
DVD Mini with 5-speaker system and with twin subwoofers



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"AT HOME with the family. Lorin and Venice are getting ready for bed, Yilmaz just got home from a meeting and I just spent two hours huffing and puffing at the gym."

# ABS complaint vs GMA-7 dismissed

By Clarissa S. Batino

WITHDRAWING from the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas last year has proved beneficial for GMA Network Inc.

The National Telecommunications Commission dismissed late last week for lack of jurisdiction a complaint filed in April by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. against GMA.

In early November, the KBP itself dismissed a similar complaint of ABS-CBN against two GMA radio stations and GMA talent Miguel "Mike" Enriquez. GMA withdrew its KBP membership in September 2003.

The Lopez network asked the NTC on April 6 to penalize GMA for allegedly violating its franchise by reporting during the March 22 edition of its news programs, "24 Oras" and "Saksi," that Dolphy's show on ABS-CBN was to be axed after the comedian actively campaigned for presidential candidate, the late Fernando Poe Jr.

## Power to regulate

GMA also reported, according

ABS/ A2-3

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2004

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*Editor* **Raul O. Marcelo**
*Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

# Oil firms buck calls for price rollback

By Abigail L. Ho

**EVEN with the price rollback that small oil firm PTT Philippines Corp. implemented Wednesday, other oil players are not open to the idea at this time as current world market prices do not make the price reduction option viable.**

Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association chair Fernando Martinez said it was highly improbable at this time to give a price rollback as international crude prices have started to inch up again.

This would then have a direct effect on the prices of refined petroleum products, which new oil players bring into the country to sell, he said.

As of Dec. 15, the benchmark Dubai crude went up a bit to an average of $33.66 a barrel, from only $33.55 a barrel two days before.

While the price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products has stayed relatively low at an average of $45.31 a barrel as of Dec. 15, MOPS-based diesel again went up to a Dec. 1-15 average of $51.08 a barrel from $50.92 a barrel.

Martinez added that past under-recoveries of about P1.50 a liter for diesel made it even more difficult to commit to a price rollback.

Under-recoveries are increases in world market prices that are not reflected in local pump prices.

The impending imposition of a 5-percent tariff on crude and refined petroleum product imports by Jan. 1, 2005, would also increase fuel costs, making it nearly impossible to implement a rollback, he added.

By next year, the current 3-percent levy that oil firms pay for their crude and finished product imports will be raised to 5 percent by virtue of a Malacañang order in July and a DOE circular last month.

The House of Representatives is also in the process of hearing separate bills that will slap more taxes on the oil industry.

"I don't know where (the Department of Energy and the Consumer and Oil Price Watch) get their figures. The rollback being floated around by the DOE and COPW appears to be far from real figures that the oil companies are using," Martinez said.

This discrepancy in figures, he said, was the reason for the other oil firms' decision not to adjust their prices, despite PTT's move to bring down gasoline and diesel prices by 50 centavos a liter.

Meanwhile, industry leader Petron Corp. decided to raise the diesel discount it was giving to the public transport sector from 50 centavos a liter to P1 a liter on Dec. 20 and Dec. 27.

By Monday, the diesel discount will go up by 25 centavos a liter, jacking up the total discount to 75 centavos. The remaining 25-centavos-a-liter discount that the oil firm has committed will take effect the Monday after that.

# Lucio Tan joins bid for Del Monte stake

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TAIPAN Lucio Tan is in serious talks with Italian food maker Cirio Finanziara S.p.A. for the latter's 40-percent stake in Singapore-listed and tinned food manufacturer Del Monte Pacific Ltd.

INQUIRER sources said Tan was likely to bid on his own instead of partnering with existing shareholders of DMPL since he usually wanted a controlling stake when acquiring a company.

As of yesterday, the 40-percent block was worth roughly $175 million.

Tan owns cigarette manufacturer Fortune Tobacco, Asia Brewery Inc., Allied Banking Corp., Philippine Airlines, Philippine National Bank, University of the East, and is involved in livestock and chemical trading. The taipan is often listed by foreign publications, including Forbes Magazine, as the richest businessman in the Philippines. His net worth is pegged at around $1.5 billion.

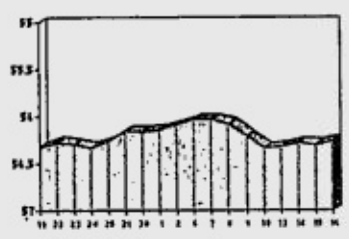
Forbes said the tobacco and beer tycoon has a net worth of $1.6 billion. Tan ranked 12th in Forbes' list of the 40 richest people in Southeast Asia recently. His businesses span

LUCIO/ B8

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**




**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

₱ 56.255 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 16, 2004

¥ 104.28 = $1

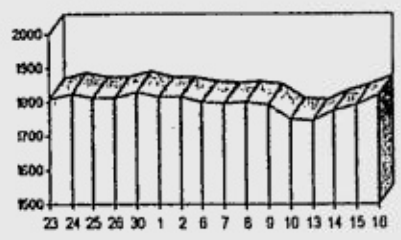
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 16, 2004

GOLD: $442.50-443.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 16, 2004

### STOCK MARKET

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**




(See stock market report on Page B4)

## Shares end higher on new tobacco, alcohol tax

SHARES closed sharply higher yesterday, cheered by the passage in Congress of a measure that will levy higher taxes on tobacco and liquor.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index finished up 25.93 points, or 1.4 percent, at 1,820.82. The advance brings the total index gain to 4.1 percent since Tuesday.

The passage of the new tax measure helped ease doubts over the government's determination to address fiscal problems amid threats from international credit rating agencies to downgrade the country due to the sluggish pace of reforms.

The bill is expected to be signed into law soon.

Blue-chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, up 3.5 percent at P1,335, in step with the 3.1-percent gain in its American depositary receipts in New York Wednesday. *AP*

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# Malaysian takes 67% of SLEX holding firm

By Clarissa S. Batino

MALAYSIA'S MTD Capital Berhad yesterday signed an agreement with the main proponents of the P10-billion South Luzon Expressway upgrade, a deal that gave it a 67-percent stake in Hopewell Crown Infrastructure Inc.

Northeast Development and Acquisitions Corp., which used to control Hopewell Crown, was left with a 23-percent interest in the company. Hopewell Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong tycoon Gordon Wu kept its 10-percent stake in the company.

Hopewell Crown owns 80 percent of South Luzon Tollway Corp., a joint venture with Philippine National Construction Corp. formed to rehabilitate and eventually operate the SLEX tollway where about 200,000 motorists pass daily.

The sale and purchase agreement between Northeast Development and MTD Capital was signed by the local firm's president, Alfonso Perez, and MTD group executive chair Dato' Dr. Nik Hussain Bin Abdul Rahman.

Hopewell Crown president Joel Bañares said the entry of the Malaysian firm ensured that the consortium could come up with the P3 billion in equity for the project.

He said the balance of about P7 billion would come from a combination of debt and quasi-equity from International Finance Corp., the state-owned National Development Co. and other creditors.

"Given the viability and prospective economic impact of the project, financing is not much of a problem. The project proponent has the expertise and track record to develop and implement the project. Our partnership with MTD assures that Hopewell Crown can deliver on these requirements," Bañares said, in an interview.

MTD Capital is Malaysia's second biggest toll operator overseeing four tollways there. It also operates a tollway in Sri Lanka. Listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, MTD Capital registered a turnover of $152 million in its fiscal year ending March 2004.

Bañares said the group welcomed the participation of NDC, particularly in the funding of the right-of-way acquisition. He said NDC could provide long-term peso financing, which was what the consortium was targeting to minimize foreign exchange exposure and other risks.

The NDC's participation, according to the former finance undersecretary, would be done through a subscription in bonds maturing over 15 to 20 years to be issued by South Luzon Tollways Corp.

MTD Capital was chosen over five other foreign groups that showed interest in the project. Bañares said the Malaysian firm was the most committed to put equity into the venture.

Other foreign firms—SNC Lavalin of Canada, Transcore of the United States, Renardet of Switzerland, BCEOM of France, and the Spanish group of Getinsa/Intecsa-Inarsa/Altair—could come in as turnkey contractors.

MTD Capital is also into highway construction. It is working on the East Coast Expressway project in Malaysia. The company has an asset base of $400 million and equity of $225 million.

Apart from a $100-million loan syndication, the World Bank's IFC wanted to put in about $30 million in equity to the SLEX upgrade. Bañares said that First Metro Investment Corp. of the Metrobank Group had also expressed interest to raise P3 billion in funding for the SLEX project.

Hopewell Crown and its financial adviser Ernst & Young had also discussed fund-raising options with the Asian Development Bank, ABN-Amro and ING Bank.

Also being explored are credit enhancements with the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency or PhilExim, Coface of France and Cesce of Spain, according to Bañares.


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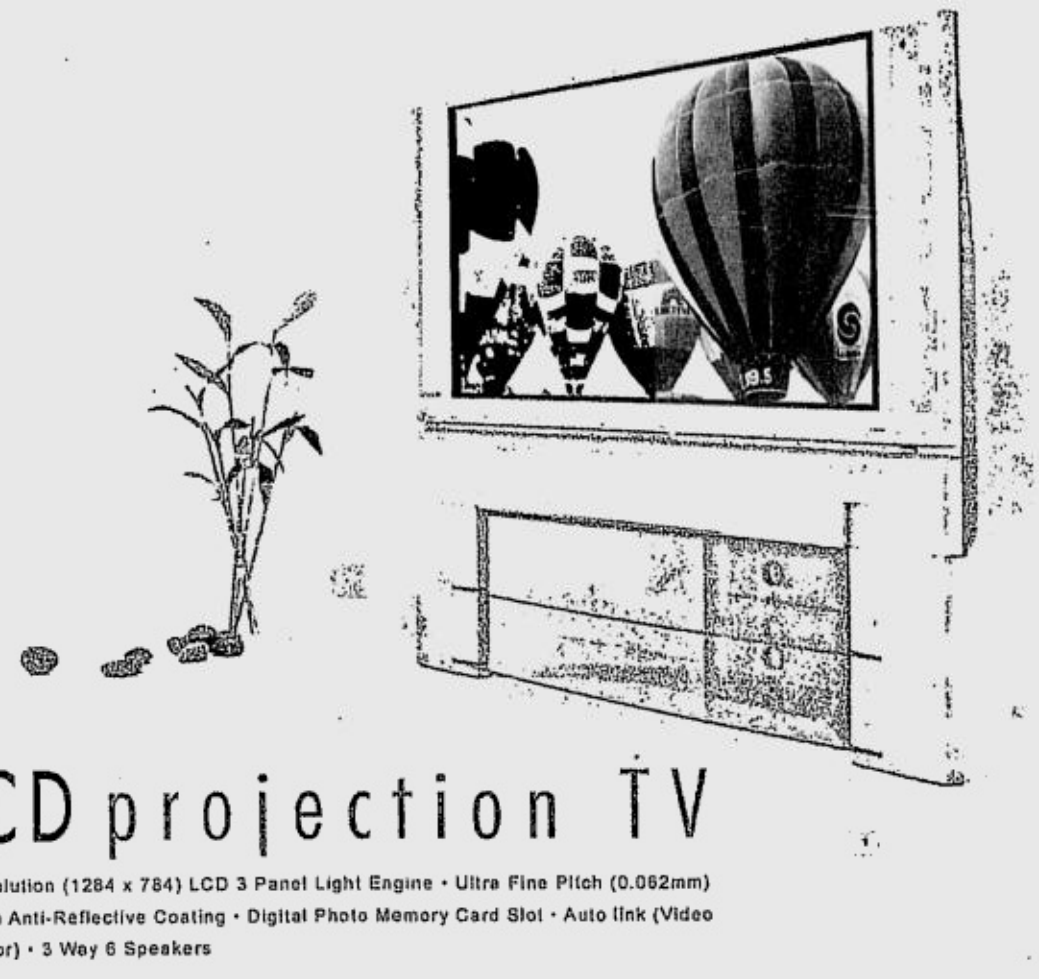

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# Kapitan stops BIR auction

*Victor C. Agustin*

MONDAY's auction sale of a 12.57-hectare corner property at Edsa and Quezon Avenue has been stopped after taipan Lucio Tan filed an injunction case before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

The property was said to have belonged to an alleged former cook of the late President Marcos. The Bureau of Internal Revenue planned to raise at least P3 billion out of the auction to cover the deficient estate taxes of the cook, who also has since died.

BIR Regional Director Nestor Valeroso said a certain Paramount Holdings that filed the injunction case claims that the property boundaries in the cook's estate differ from those of the property that the BIR was trying to auction.

Valeroso declined to discuss the case, since it is now under litigation, but Cocktales has confirmed that Lucio Tan is indeed the beneficial owner of Paramount Holdings.

The questioned corner property is by the Monumento-bound lane of Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, where an Air Philippines billboard now stands. A large portion of the contested property is also now occupied by a golf driving range.

The cook's alleged property, if indeed there is one, is said to be located much farther in Cubao.

COCKTALES/ B6

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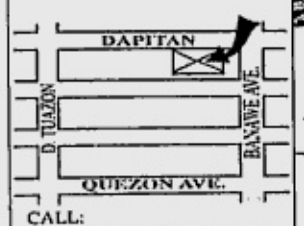


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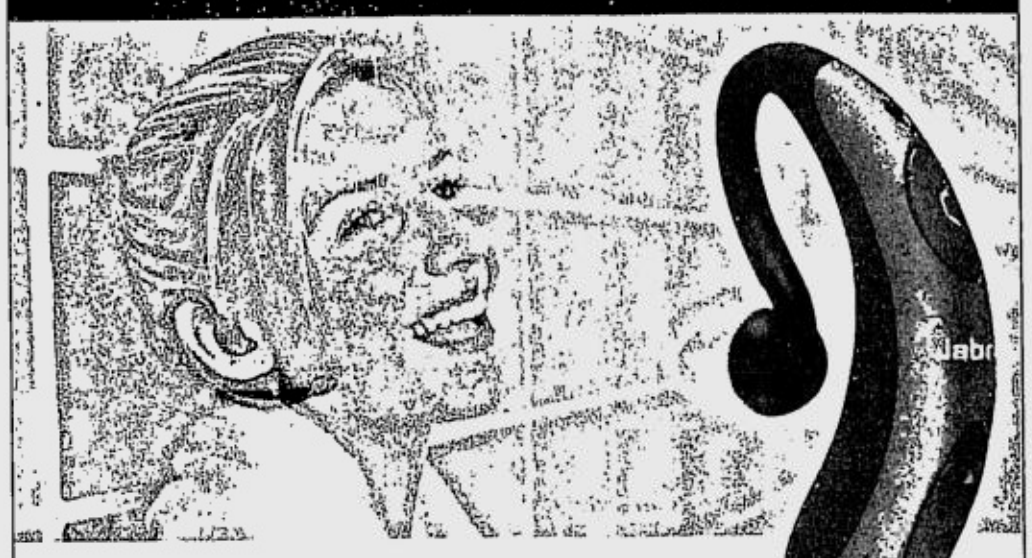

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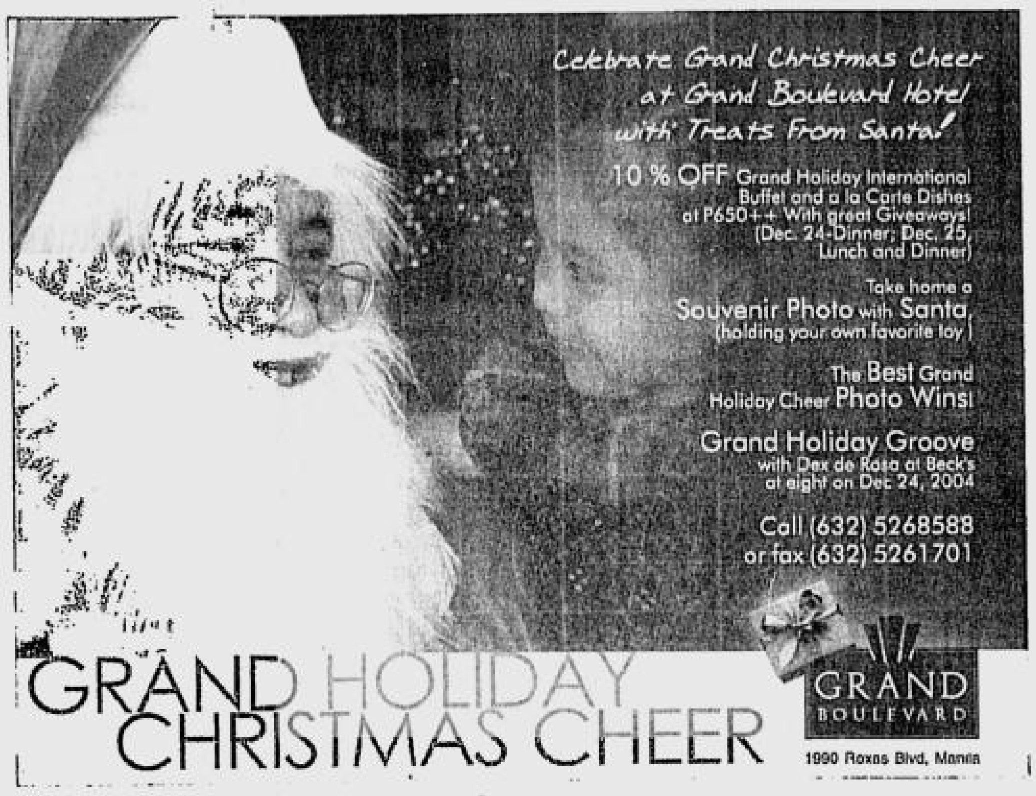
OIL EXPLORATION

# HK-listed firm bags contract




By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING the reversal of an earlier Supreme Court decision barring foreign firms from engaging in the mining business, the Department of Energy on Wednesday awarded an oil and gas exploration contract to South Sea Petroleum Holdings Ltd.

The DOE formally awarded Service Contract No. 45 to the Hong Kong-listed firm after President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the go-ahead to do so.

With the awarding of the service contract, the firm can now proceed with oil and gas exploration efforts over the Agusan-Davao Basin in Davao.

"This is indeed a welcome news for us, as it assures the people that the search for reliable and indigenous supply of fuel is a continuing effort. The contribution of foreign companies is very significant. We hope this will result in successful development of our oil and gas resources," Energy Secretary

HK-LISTED/ B7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Effective 15 days from publication in newspapers of general circulation, Maynilad Water Services, Inc. ("Maynilad") will implement a rate adjustment as recommended by the MWSS Regulatory Office per Resolution No. 04-014-CA and approved by the MWSS per Board Resolution No. 2004-301 both dated 24 November 2004.

Maynilad's concession area covers the cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres & Sta. Ana), Quezon (west of San Juan River, West Ave., EDSA, Congressional & Mindanao Ave.; the northern part starting from the Districts of the Holy Spirit & Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Hi-way), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Valenzuela, and the towns of Navotas and Malabon - all in Metro Manila; Cavite City, and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario - all in Cavite province.

| 1. WATER CHARGES | CURRENT A. BASIC | CURRENT B. CERA* | CURRENT C. FCDA | CURRENT TOTAL | NEW A. BASIC | NEW B. CERA* | NEW C. FCDA/STM** | NEW TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RESIDENTIAL** | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 38.35 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 13.70 /conn. | P 62.05 /conn. | P 66.39 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 14.28 /conn. | P 90.67 /conn. |
| Next 10 cu.m. | 4.68 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 1.67 /cu.m. | 7.35 /cu.m. | 8.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 1.74 /cu.m. | 10.84 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 8.90 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 3.18 /cu.m. | 13.08 /cu.m. | 15.41 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 3.31 /cu.m. | 19.72 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 11.69 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.18 /cu.m. | 16.87 /cu.m. | 20.24 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.35 /cu.m. | 25.59 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 13.66 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.88 /cu.m. | 19.54 /cu.m. | 23.65 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.09 /cu.m. | 29.74 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 14.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.10 /cu.m. | 20.38 /cu.m. | 24.72 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.32 /cu.m. | 31.04 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 14.93 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.34 /cu.m. | 21.27 /cu.m. | 25.85 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.56 /cu.m. | 32.41 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 15.60 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.57 /cu.m. | 22.17 /cu.m. | 27.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 33.82 /cu.m. |
| Over 200 cu.m. | 16.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 23.07 /cu.m. | 28.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.05 /cu.m. | 35.20 /cu.m. |
| **SEMI-BUSINESS** | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 64.42 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 23.02 /conn. | P 97.44 /conn. | P 111.52 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 23.98 /conn. | P 145.50 /conn. |
| Next 10 cu.m. | 7.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 2.81 /cu.m. | 11.67 /cu.m. | 13.61 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 2.93 /cu.m. | 17.54 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 9.69 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 3.46 /cu.m. | 14.15 /cu.m. | 16.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 3.61 /cu.m. | 21.38 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 12.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.39 /cu.m. | 17.67 /cu.m. | 21.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.57 /cu.m. | 26.83 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 14.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.10 /cu.m. | 20.38 /cu.m. | 24.72 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.32 /cu.m. | 31.04 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 14.95 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.34 /cu.m. | 21.29 /cu.m. | 25.88 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.57 /cu.m. | 32.45 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 15.60 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.57 /cu.m. | 22.17 /cu.m. | 27.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 33.82 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 16.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 23.07 /cu.m. | 28.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.05 /cu.m. | 35.20 /cu.m. |
| Over 200 cu.m. | 16.90 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.04 /cu.m. | 23.94 /cu.m. | 29.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.29 /cu.m. | 36.55 /cu.m. |
| **BUSINESS GROUP I** | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 174.29 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 62.28 /conn. | P 246.57 /conn. | P 301.72 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 64.88 /conn. | P 376.60 /conn. |
| Next 90 cu.m. | 17.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.25 /cu.m. | 24.76 /cu.m. | 30.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.52 /cu.m. | 37.83 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.56 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.27 /cu.m. | 24.83 /cu.m. | 30.40 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.54 /cu.m. | 37.94 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.61 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.29 /cu.m. | 24.90 /cu.m. | 30.49 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.56 /cu.m. | 38.05 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.67 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.31 /cu.m. | 24.98 /cu.m. | 30.59 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.58 /cu.m. | 38.17 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.73 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.34 /cu.m. | 25.07 /cu.m. | 30.69 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.60 /cu.m. | 38.29 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.82 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.37 /cu.m. | 25.19 /cu.m. | 30.85 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.63 /cu.m. | 38.48 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.89 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.39 /cu.m. | 25.28 /cu.m. | 30.97 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.66 /cu.m. | 38.63 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.94 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.41 /cu.m. | 25.35 /cu.m. | 31.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.68 /cu.m. | 38.74 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 18.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.43 /cu.m. | 25.44 /cu.m. | 31.18 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.70 /cu.m. | 38.88 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 18.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.45 /cu.m. | 25.51 /cu.m. | 31.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.72 /cu.m. | 38.98 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.49 /cu.m. | 25.64 /cu.m. | 31.42 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.76 /cu.m. | 39.18 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.20 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.50 /cu.m. | 25.70 /cu.m. | 31.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.78 /cu.m. | 39.29 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.53 /cu.m. | 25.81 /cu.m. | 31.65 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.81 /cu.m. | 39.46 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.34 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.55 /cu.m. | 25.89 /cu.m. | 31.75 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.83 /cu.m. | 39.58 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.39 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.57 /cu.m. | 25.96 /cu.m. | 31.84 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.85 /cu.m. | 39.69 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.44 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.59 /cu.m. | 26.03 /cu.m. | 31.92 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.86 /cu.m. | 39.78 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.54 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.63 /cu.m. | 26.17 /cu.m. | 32.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.90 /cu.m. | 40.00 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.60 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.64 /cu.m. | 26.24 /cu.m. | 32.20 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.92 /cu.m. | 40.12 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.67 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.67 /cu.m. | 26.34 /cu.m. | 32.32 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.95 /cu.m. | 40.27 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.70 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.68 /cu.m. | 26.38 /cu.m. | 32.37 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.96 /cu.m. | 40.33 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.78 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.71 /cu.m. | 26.49 /cu.m. | 32.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.99 /cu.m. | 40.50 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.74 /cu.m. | 26.60 /cu.m. | 32.65 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.02 /cu.m. | 40.67 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.91 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.76 /cu.m. | 26.67 /cu.m. | 32.74 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.04 /cu.m. | 40.78 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.98 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.78 /cu.m. | 26.76 /cu.m. | 32.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.07 /cu.m. | 40.93 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.05 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.81 /cu.m. | 26.86 /cu.m. | 32.98 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.09 /cu.m. | 41.07 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.82 /cu.m. | 26.92 /cu.m. | 33.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.11 /cu.m. | 41.17 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.17 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.85 /cu.m. | 27.02 /cu.m. | 33.19 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.14 /cu.m. | 41.33 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.24 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.87 /cu.m. | 27.11 /cu.m. | 33.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.16 /cu.m. | 41.47 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.90 /cu.m. | 27.21 /cu.m. | 33.43 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.19 /cu.m. | 41.62 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.92 /cu.m. | 27.30 /cu.m. | 33.55 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.21 /cu.m. | 41.76 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.43 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.94 /cu.m. | 27.37 /cu.m. | 33.64 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.23 /cu.m. | 41.87 /cu.m. |
| Over 10000 cu.m. | 19.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.97 /cu.m. | 27.48 /cu.m. | 33.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.26 /cu.m. | 42.03 /cu.m. |
| **BUSINESS GROUP II** | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 188.59 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 67.38 /conn. | P 265.97 /conn. | P 326.48 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 70.20 /conn. | P 406.68 /conn. |
| Next 90 cu.m. | 18.98 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.78 /cu.m. | 26.76 /cu.m. | 32.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.07 /cu.m. | 40.93 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.82 /cu.m. | 26.92 /cu.m. | 33.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.11 /cu.m. | 41.17 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.24 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.87 /cu.m. | 27.11 /cu.m. | 33.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.16 /cu.m. | 41.47 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.92 /cu.m. | 27.30 /cu.m. | 33.55 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.21 /cu.m. | 41.76 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.97 /cu.m. | 27.48 /cu.m. | 33.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.26 /cu.m. | 42.03 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.64 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.02 /cu.m. | 27.66 /cu.m. | 34.00 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.31 /cu.m. | 42.31 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.07 /cu.m. | 27.84 /cu.m. | 34.22 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.36 /cu.m. | 42.58 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.89 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.11 /cu.m. | 28.00 /cu.m. | 34.43 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.40 /cu.m. | 42.83 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 20.03 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.16 /cu.m. | 28.19 /cu.m. | 34.67 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.46 /cu.m. | 43.13 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 20.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.20 /cu.m. | 28.35 /cu.m. | 34.88 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.50 /cu.m. | 43.38 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.24 /cu.m. | 28.52 /cu.m. | 35.11 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.55 /cu.m. | 43.66 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.40 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.29 /cu.m. | 28.69 /cu.m. | 35.32 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.60 /cu.m. | 43.92 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.55 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.34 /cu.m. | 28.89 /cu.m. | 35.58 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.65 /cu.m. | 44.23 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.66 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.38 /cu.m. | 29.04 /cu.m. | 35.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.69 /cu.m. | 44.46 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.80 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.43 /cu.m. | 29.23 /cu.m. | 36.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.74 /cu.m. | 44.75 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 20.94 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.48 /cu.m. | 29.42 /cu.m. | 36.25 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.80 /cu.m. | 45.05 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.05 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.52 /cu.m. | 29.57 /cu.m. | 36.44 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.84 /cu.m. | 45.28 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.18 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.57 /cu.m. | 29.75 /cu.m. | 36.67 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.89 /cu.m. | 45.56 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.33 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.62 /cu.m. | 29.95 /cu.m. | 36.93 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.94 /cu.m. | 45.87 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.44 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.66 /cu.m. | 30.10 /cu.m. | 37.12 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.98 /cu.m. | 46.10 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.59 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.71 /cu.m. | 30.30 /cu.m. | 37.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.04 /cu.m. | 46.42 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.71 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.76 /cu.m. | 30.47 /cu.m. | 37.58 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.08 /cu.m. | 46.66 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.83 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.80 /cu.m. | 30.63 /cu.m. | 37.79 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.13 /cu.m. | 46.92 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.97 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.85 /cu.m. | 30.82 /cu.m. | 38.03 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.18 /cu.m. | 47.21 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.11 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.90 /cu.m. | 31.01 /cu.m. | 38.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.23 /cu.m. | 47.51 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.22 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.94 /cu.m. | 31.16 /cu.m. | 38.47 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.27 /cu.m. | 47.74 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.00 /cu.m. | 31.38 /cu.m. | 38.74 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.33 /cu.m. | 48.07 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.49 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.04 /cu.m. | 31.53 /cu.m. | 38.93 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.37 /cu.m. | 48.30 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.63 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.09 /cu.m. | 31.72 /cu.m. | 39.18 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.43 /cu.m. | 48.61 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.75 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.13 /cu.m. | 31.88 /cu.m. | 39.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.47 /cu.m. | 48.85 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.89 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.18 /cu.m. | 32.07 /cu.m. | 39.63 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.52 /cu.m. | 49.15 /cu.m. |
| Over 10000 cu.m. | 23.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.22 /cu.m. | 32.23 /cu.m. | 39.83 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.56 /cu.m. | 49.39 /cu.m. |

Note: * Shall be subjected to actual consumption of 1 Peso per cubic meter if consumption is below ten (10) cubic meters.
** FCDA (Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment)/STM (Special Transitory Mechanism) are forex recovery mechanisms.

2. A. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE (EC) - 10% of Water Charge

B. SEWERAGE CHARGE (SC) - 50% of Water Charge
For all customers connected to MWSI sewerlines

3. MAINTENANCE SERVICE CHARGE (MSC)

| METER SIZE | AMOUNT (per conn.) | METER SIZE | AMOUNT (per conn.) | METER SIZE | AMOUNT (per conn.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1/2" or 13mm | P 1.50 | 1 1/4" or 40mm | P 1.50 | 4" or 100 mm | P 20.00 |
| 3/4" or 20mm | 2.00 | 2" or 50mm | 2.00 | 6" or 150 mm | 35.00 |
| 1" or 25mm | 3.00 | 3" or 75mm | 3.00 | 8" or 200 mm | 50.00 |

4. VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) 10% of the Charges 1, 2 and 3
THE MONTHLY BILL IS THE SUM OF 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Approved By:

EDUARDO C. SANTOS
Chief Regulator, MWSS-RO

ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
MWSS Administrator

FIORELLO R. ESTUAR
MWSS - President

*For inquiries please call our 24-hour Hotline at 1628.*


## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 16, 2004)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 24.5 | 24.75 | 24.25 | 24.75 | 395,600 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 51.5 | 52 | 51 | 51.5 | 1,032,900 |
| China Banking Corp. | 590 | 590 | 590 | 590 | 300 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 3,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 48 | 48.5 | 47.5 | 48 | 194,800 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.45 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.46 | 150,000 |
| International Exch. Bank | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 177,100 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 27 | 27.5 | 27 | 27.5 | 1,231,500 |
| Philippine National Bank | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 2,100 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 10,000 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 1,200 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 2,500 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 9,600 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 30,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 2490 | 2510 | 2490 | 2510 | 400 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.38 | 1.4 | 1.38 | 1.4 | 12 000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 111 | 111 | 110 | 110 | 730 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1820 | 1830 | 1820 | 1830 | 350 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 36,100 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 5,604,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 935 | 950 | 935 | 950 | 46,900 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.7 | 2.75 | 35,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.033 | 900,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 90,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.5 | 2.55 | 1,394,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1315 | 1340 | 1315 | 1335 | 158,600 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.71 | 0.72 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1,470,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 7,000,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8,200 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 26 | 26 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 881,300 |
| Petron Corp. | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 5,482,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 101,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 980,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 134,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 80,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.18 | 1.24 | 1.18 | 1.22 | 7,477,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 300,000 |
| Fortune Cement Corp. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 50,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 2 | 2.08 | 1.98 | 1.98 | 10,275,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 28 | 28.5 | 28 | 28.5 | 564,900 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 57.5 | 57.5 | 57.5 | 57.5 | 61,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 5,000 |
| Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,000 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 750,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 23,000,000 |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg B | 0.0042 | 0.0044 | 0.0042 | 0.0044 | 6,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 8,145,000 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.28 | 0.3 | 0.28 | 0.3 | 90,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 278,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.5 | 1.56 | 1.5 | 1.54 | 247,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 12,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 20,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 30,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 15.75 | 15.75 | 15.75 | 15.75 | 1,000 |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.14 | 0.145 | 0.14 | 0.145 | 110,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.7 | 0.71 | 0.69 | 0.71 | 6,980,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 810,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 1,600,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.1 | 0.135 | 0.1 | 0.135 | 20,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3.75 | 3.85 | 3.75 | 3.85 | 1,244,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 2,000,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 4.55 | 4.65 | 4.55 | 4.65 | 884,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 30.5 | 31 | 30.5 | 31 | 271,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 20,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc. | 3 | 3.1 | 3 | 3.05 | 326,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 3.15 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 2.42 | 14,314,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 6,380,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.22 | 1.26 | 1.22 | 1.26 | 1,205,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 1,000,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 9,250,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 16,820,000 |
| Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 15,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 50,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 7,530,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 7,080,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 41,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 120,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Bella Corp. | 0.62 | 0.62 | 0.61 | 0.61 | 2,580,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 1.08 | 1.24 | 1.08 | 1.18 | 19,938,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.63 | 0.65 | 0.63 | 0.64 | 440,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 20,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 250,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 100,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr) | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18 | 18.25 | 540,300 |
| Macroasia Corp. Warrants | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.115 | 0.15 | 1,480,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 2,300 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 2,100 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 11,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 14,717,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1,750,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 5,890,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 380,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 9,130,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 10,505,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 60,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.53 | 0.54 | 0.53 | 0.54 | 2,160,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 30,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 700,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.36 | 1.38 | 1.36 | 1.38 | 150,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 10,534,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 20,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 94,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 208,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 3 | 3.1 | 3 | 3.1 | 34,000 |
| Dizon Copper Silver Mines | 3.3 | 3.55 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 1,357,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.24 | 0.245 | 0.24 | 0.245 | 2,300,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.35 | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 10,800,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 105,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 307,400,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 2,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.6 | 0.62 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 5,170,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp B | 0.67 | 0.69 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 7,920,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 550,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 70,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 84,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.23 | 300,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.22 | 0.245 | 0.22 | 0.245 | 770,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 46,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.037 | 0.038 | 0.037 | 0.037 | 17,400,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 80,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

DALLAS Hampton and Mark Ripka, newly appointed officers of **Asian Terminals Inc.**, do not have shares with the company. Ramon Atayde, an ATI director, owns 277,133 shares as of Nov. 30.

* * *

**BANK of the Philippine Islands** declared regular cash dividends of P0.80 per share on total outstanding shares, payable to stockholders of record 15 days after receipt of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approval.

* * *

BLANQUITA Gonzalez, a director of **Prudential Bank**, bought 2,000 shares of Prudential Bank on Dec. 13. She now has a total of 246,636 shares.

* * *

**PHILIPPINE Tobacco Flue-Curing and Redrying Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Jan. 27, 2005 at 2 p.m. at its principal office on 802 A. Bonifacio St., Balintawak, Quezon City. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap; PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| December 16, 2004 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.746380 | 1.000000 | 56.3130 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007159 | 0.009592 | 0.5402 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.450142 | 1.942900 | 109.4105 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.096011 | 0.128636 | 7.2439 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.653745 | 0.875887 | 49.3238 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.609688 | 0.816860 | 45.9998 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.455666 | 0.610501 | 34.3791 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.570758 | 0.764701 | 43.0626 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 1.980051 | 2.652872 | 149.3912 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.199056 | 0.266695 | 15.0184 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.454279 | 0.608643 | 34.2745 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000081 | 0.000108 | 0.0061 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.019016 | 0.025478 | 1.4347 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.203224 | 0.272279 | 15.3328 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.339800 | 75.4482 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.250884 | 0.336134 | 18.9287 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.272600 | 0.365230 | 20.5672 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134556 | 0.180278 | 10.1520 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017017 | 0.022800 | 1.2839 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.196442 | 0.263193 | 14.8212 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.066796 | 0.089493 | 5.0396 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.535808 | 0.717875 | 40.4257 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.121880 | 0.163295 | 9.1956 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.012506 | 0.016756 | 0.9436 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.130361 | 0.174657 | 9.8355 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000704 | 0.000943 | 0.0531 |
| Sweden | Kronar | 0.111575 | 0.149488 | 8.4181 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.014378 | 0.019264 | 1.0848 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.023030 | 0.030855 | 1.7375 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000390 | 0.000522 | 0.0294 |

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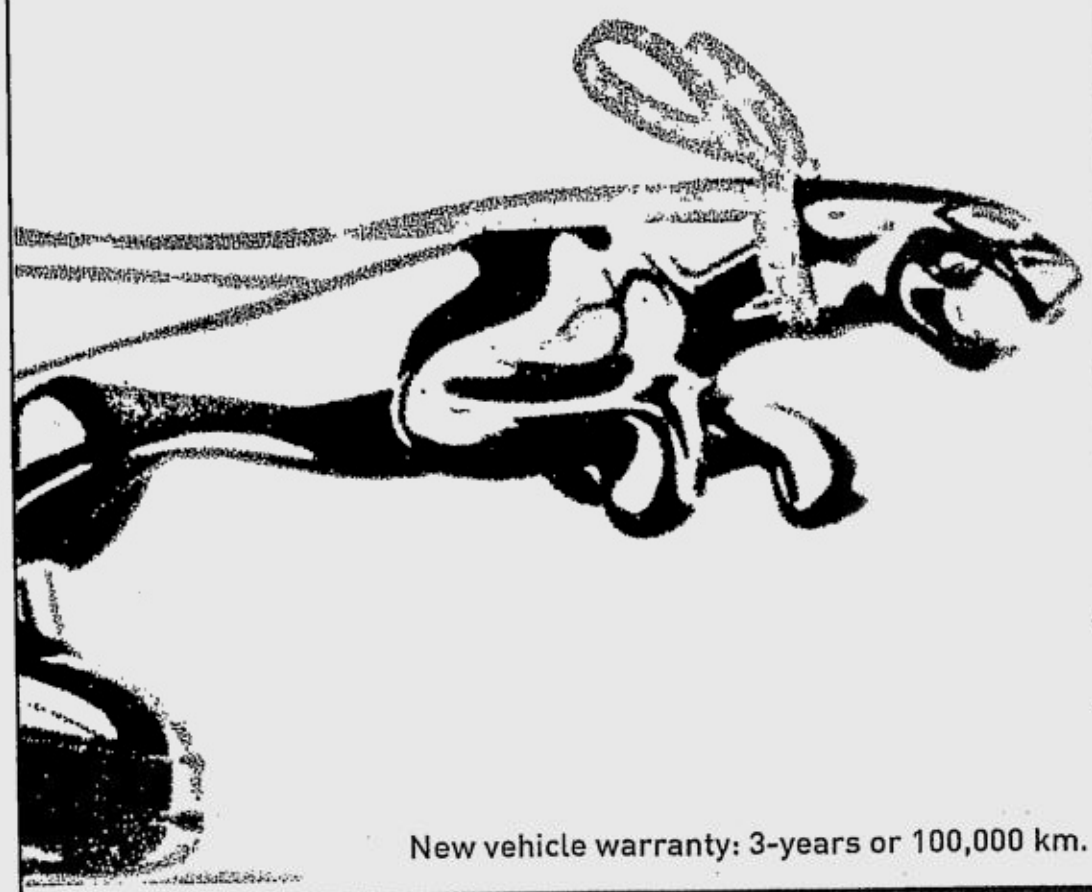

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At ngayon, ang biyayang ito ay umaabot na hanggang sa Montalbán, Rizal.

Lahat ng ito'y nangyari dahil sa iba't-ibang water service projects at halos round-the-clock na pagtra-trabaho ng Manila Water, isang Ayala company at concessionaire ng MWSS.

At simula pa lang ito. Sa kanilang ika-7 taon, mas marami pang gagawin ang Manila Water. Ang na-invest na P9 bilyon ay dadagdagan pa para sa 2007, aabot na sa 5 milyong tao sa East Zone ang makakaranas ng tuluy-tuloy na pagdaloy ng tubig. At mas maayos na pagdaloy ng buhay. 24 oras.

Manila Water

Dala ng tubig ay ginhawa.

* Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati, malaking bahagi ng Quezon City, San Andres at Sta. Ana sa Manila. Kasama rin dito ang San Juan, Taguig, Pateros, at Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, San Mateo at Montalban sa Rizal.

DEBT SERVICING UP

# BOP deficit swells to $459M as of end-November

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' balance of payment deficit swelled to $275 million in November from $6 million in October on higher foreign exchange outflows from debt servicing.

In a press briefing, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said this brought the 11-month deficit to $459 million, from a surplus of $192 million recorded in the same period last year.

By the year's end, he said the BOP deficit would likely balloon further to $516 million.

"This is due to higher repayment of principal debt and interest as well as the trade deficits which negated inflows from overseas Filipino workers' remittances and portfolio investments," Buenaventura said.

On the other hand, the BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world.

Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or offshore investment is a deficit item while any transaction which gives rise to a receipt like exporting or inward remittance and investment is a surplus item.

During the same period, he said Gross International Reserves slipped to a nine-month low of $15.87 billion at end-November from $15.92 billion in October.

The reserves level, however, was still enough to cover about 4.2 months of imports of goods as well as payments of services and income.

It is also equivalent to 2.6 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.4 times based on residual maturity.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is seen as an indicator of the government's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy.

BUENAVENTURA

CAPT. Iren Dornier, chair of South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR), turns over to Dr. Nicholas Alipui, country representative of Unicef Philippines a check worth $61,000 raised during the world tour of the airline's restored Do24ATT amphibian aircraft. With him are Capt. Nikos Gitsis, SEAIR director, Capt. Joseph Bustamante, pilot, Lorena Burcer, business development officer SEAIR, Angelica Cruz, Unicef, and Shiella Cabi-ao, sales and marketing manager, SEAIR. RUDY ESPERAS

# DOF to support Masinloc plant deal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would prevent any moves to delay the transfer of the Masinloc coal-fired power plant to its winning bidder, YNN Pacific Consortium.

The DOF declared its position amid calls for a congressional inquiry into the bidding process.

According to Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto, who is in charge of the government's privatization efforts, the DOF welcomes proposals to subject the bidding of Zambales-based Masinloc to an investigation, but added that such a move should not hamper the sale of the plant.

"They can inquire all they want for as long as it will be an inquiry that is in pursuit of understanding a fairly complex issue. However, if the inquiry will be an attempt to delay the proceedings, then that will be a different story," said Recto in an interview.

The DOF earlier said the "successful" bidding of the 600-megawatt Masinloc, one of the biggest assets of state-owned National Power Corp., would provide a big boost to government's efforts to privatize the country's power assets.

It added that the sale, closed at $561 million, was a big lift to the ailing power sector, which was devoid of interested investors.

The DOF also said the sale of Masinloc, which will generate much needed cash for debt-saddled Napocor, was one of the major factors that helped saved the country from a credit rating downgrade by Fitch Ratings.

The sale of Masinloc to YNN Pacific Consortium, however, is being questioned by some sectors, which raised doubts on the financial capacity of the little-known firm.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, together with other party-list congressmen, filed a bill last Dec. 3 calling for an investigation of the bidding of Masinloc.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., which is tasked with privatizing the power-generation and transmission assets of Napocor, criticized efforts to stop the sale of Masinloc.

Government officials also warned that stopping the sale of Masinloc would likely lead to a downgrade of the country's credit rating.

Moody's earlier warned of a possible credit downgrade for the Philippines because of its fiscal problem, characterized by a gaping budget deficit and a burgeoning debt.

Recto said the doubts on the financial capacity of YNN Pacific Consortium should be eased by the fact that the sale of Masinloc carried with it a bid security of $9 million. This means that if the firm fails to pursue its $561-million bid, the government could collect the amount of bid security.

# *Gravity theory leads to the grave*

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

COMMENTARY

AT THE end of last week's meeting of the Multi-Sectoral Coalition Against Smuggling (MCAS), Rene Ofreneo, UP professor and Fair Trade Alliance executive director, cited a factor which, alongside smuggling, was killing Philippine agriculture. He called it the "gravity theory."

"Simply put, this means that the faster tariff rates are pulled down by gravity to zero, the faster will be economic growth," Ofreneo said. "However, for many agriculture sectors, this theory leads more to the grave than to growth."

## Empirical findings

At the Asia Pacific Conference on Trade sponsored by the UNDP, the Third World Network, and the North-South Institute last November, several empirical studies were cited to bolster the gravity theory.

The theory worked for countries that had nurtured their sectors and were already strong enough to withstand foreign competition.

But for countries that were still weak, the gravity theory was a formula for disaster. In their cases, imports far exceeded exports, causing balance of payments problems, job displacement, and increased poverty.

We would have experienced these problems today to a far greater degree were it not for our overseas workers.

During the conference keynoted by UN Assistant Secretary General Hafiz Pasha, a 2004 study by Ha-Joon Chang and Ilene Grabel showed that the economically successful countries, with few exceptions, did not practice free trade during their development phase. Instead, they nurtured their economies until they attained comparative advantage.

Only when they were strong enough did they decrease their tariff rates significantly. For such countries, the timing of the gravity theory implementation worked. Is the timing correct for Philippine agriculture?

## Cross-country analysis

A study released last June by Eliseo Ponce and Cristina David ranked the Philippines' agriculture comparative advantage against four other Southeast Asian countries: *(See Table 1)*

In Table 1, the Philippines had some measure of comparative advantage in agriculture when it ranked second in 1970 and 1980. However, it rapidly lost this when it ranked fourth in 1990 and last in 2000.

Instead of nurturing agriculture during those years, the government neglected agriculture. To add insult to injury, the government suddenly decreased tariff rates.

For many vegetables, we went from quantitative restrictions to a 7 percent tariff rate. This was done without consulting with, or even understanding the impact on, the affected sectors. This rate is far lower than the tariff rates of comparable developing countries, and way below the 40-percent bound rate allowed by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

## Gravity Theory results

As we lost our comparative advantage because of government neglect, and as we implemented the gravity theory prematurely, the experience of other countries similarly not prepared was replayed in the Philippines.

Below is the ratio of agriculture imports to exports culled from the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Statistics: *(See Table 2)*

## Analysis

Table 2 shows that agriculture suffered, rather than benefited, from the gravity theory.

In 1992-93, for every $84 we imported, we exported $100. As tariffs decreased, we imported an average of $147 for every $100 we exported in the last six years.

If the bulk of our farmers and fisherfolk could shift more profitably to industry or services, a case could be made for pursuing this direction.

However, there are simply not enough jobs available in the other sectors. Furthermore, our food security would be jeopardized.

The solution is, follow the example of the successful countries. For the sectors that have potential comparative advantage, protect and nurture them.

Only when they are strong enough should we apply the gravity theory.

For agriculture, this will result in more, rather than fewer, jobs. It will also increase food security, and result in a trade balance where exports exceed imports, as our agriculture-based country experienced until 1993.

## Common points

In last month's Asia Pacific Conference on Trade held in Malaysia, the Philippines' Alyansa Agrikultura led NGOs of 11 Asia-Pacific countries in identifying four common points for discussion to guide international trade agreements.

One of these is for developed countries and financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to desist from making rapid trade liberalization and conditionality for loan and trade agreements.

It was unanimously agreed by these representatives that premature implementation of the gravity theory would severely damage unprepared developing nations.

In the coming months, the Philippines will be engaged in crucial bilateral, multilateral and regional trade negotiations.

For Philippine agriculture, the most important will be the trade agreement with China. It is imperative that a thorough analysis and adequate consultation be done for each of our agricultural sectors before any agreement is reached.

Applying the gravity theory prematurely for an unprepared agricultural sector will not lead to growth. As Ofreneo said, it will instead lead to the grave.

The government should work jointly with the farmers and fisherfolk so that we are not headed in this direction again.

*(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry; and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)*

**TABLE 1: Comparative Advantage Ranking**

| Country | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philippines | Second | Second | Fourth | Fifth |
| Thailand | First | First | Second | Second |
| Vietnam | Fifth | Fourth | First | First |
| Malaysia | Second | Third | Third | Fourth |
| Indonesia | Second | Fifth | Fifth | Third |

**TABLE 2: Ratio of Agricultural Imports to Exports**

| Years | 1992-93 | 1994-95 | 1996-97 | 1998-99 | 2000-01 | 2000-03 | 2004 (1-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ratio | 84% | 104% | 133% | 147% | 146% | 148% | 147% |

# BIR bucks BCDA plea to defer tax payments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) is not willing to grant the request of Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to defer payment of taxes related to the planned construction of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac highway.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the revenue agency could not allow BCDA, the project's proponent, to defer payment of taxes that could go over P1 billion, as the National Internal Revenue Code, or the Tax Code specifies the payment period.

"It is not for us to grant such a request because deadlines are set by the law. If they will not pay on time, then they will have to pay interest," said Henares in an interview.

The P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac highway project will be financed largely by a official development assistance funds from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

JBIC will finance 85 percent of the project cost, with the remainder to be covered by a counterpart funding from the government.

JBIC, however, has temporarily withheld the release of the funds for the project, saying it wants to be assured first that it will not be liable to pay some P2.3 billion in taxes and duties that will result from the construction of the highway.

Of the amount, P700 million will come in the form of value-added tax (VAT) and duties on imported capital equipment.

# Cocktales

From page B3

According to the grapevine, the taipan bought the Edsa-Quezon Avenue property during a Land Bank auction in the early Ramos years and planned there to build a Safeway superstore, the American retailing giant whose Philippine franchise he had then planned to acquire.

Among those that had planned to participate in the scuttled Monday's auction was Robinsons Land of taipan John Gokongwei, who was eyeing the site for a combined mall and residential complex.

The BIR was asking a minimum bid price of about P40,000 a square meter for that corner lot. At that valuation, the entire property is worth more than P5 billion cash.

## Noah's Ark sinks

THE SUPREME Court has finally paved the way for United Coconut Planters Bank to proceed with a much-delayed auction of the 4.5-hectare Noah's Ark sugar refinery complex in Mandaluyong, across the luxury Rockwell complex.

UCPB foreclosed the property in the aftermath of the currency crisis, and scheduled a public bidding in May 2000 but Noah's Ark's principal Jimmy Go managed to obtain a writ of preliminary injunction from, of all courts, the Pasig Regional Trial Court.

Go said he was a resident of Pasig and was filing the suit as a "personal action" to question the cancellation of the mortgage, instead of the "real action" that would have by law conferred jurisdiction, since the mortgaged property is located in Mandaluyong, to the Mandaluyong courts.

The Supreme Court order upheld a previous Court of Appeals decision directing Pasig RTC Judge Rodrigo Lorenzo to stop hearing the case on ground of improper venue.

## Citibank as punching bag

BECAUSE of its size, the US multinational financial giant Citibank is an easy target among disgruntled ex-employees and the bank's numerous publics.

Citibank sent a curt two-sentence statement in reaction to a Dec. 6 item here about the 2003 dismissal of one of its vice presidents, Maria Aurora Ceniza.

Saying the case was under consideration by the National Labor Relations Commission, "it would be inappropriate for Citibank to comment further," the statement said.

"However, Citibank believes that it has acted appropriately and in accordance with Philippine law."

Apparently, the illegal dismissal case has already been submitted for resolution, which raises questions as to the timing of the anti-Citibank press leaks now appearing in other newspaper columns as well.

## Heard through the grapevine

TOYOTA has decided to defer the introduction of its much-acclaimed Lexus vehicle lineup from the fourth quarter next year to early 2006, when the free trade agreement between Japan and the Philippines shall have kicked in.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net)*

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BMW 323i
1999 Imola Red, 36,300km, P1,550,000

BMW 323i
2001 Steel Gray, 12,000km, P1,600,000

BMW 318i Limo.
2003 Titanium Silver, 19,700km, P1,650,000

BMW 316i Ed.
2004 Titanium Silver, 1,000km, P1,685,000

BMW 316i Ed.
2004 Sienna Red, 1,500km, P1,685,000

BMW 318i Ed.
2004 Titanium Silver, 3,000km, P2,075,000

BMW 318i Ed.
2004 Black Sapphire, 3,000km, P2,075,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver, 13,000km, P2,100,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire, 5,000km, P2,150,000

BMW 318i Sport
2004 Titanium Silver, 7,000km, P2,400,000

BMW 325i Exec.
2003 Titanium Silver, 12,600km, P2,550,000

BMW 325i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver, 17,900km, P2,590,000

BMW 318i Sport
2004 Topaz Blue, 2,500km, P2,600,000

BMW 325i M Sport
2004 Imola Red, 4,000km, P3,100,000

BMW X3 2.5i Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire, 1,300km, P3,750,000

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Per DTI-ITCR Permit No. 1027 Series of 2004

# Canadian firm eyes stake in Lepanto project

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CANADIAN mining firm Ivanhoe Mines Ltd. is considering investing in mining projects of the Lepanto Group, one of the country's oldest mining companies.

Lepanto Group chair Felipe Yap yesterday said he had met with Ivanhoe Mines chair and founder Robert Friedland to discuss the potential investment of the Canadian firm.

"I am excited to look at investment opportunities here in the Philippines," Friedland briefly said through an associate of Yap.

Ivanhoe and the Lepanto Group had held talks about the infusion of some $350 million to P500 million in a Lepanto project in the Benguet Province in the late 1990s. This, however, did not push through because of various factors, particularly the country's restrictions on foreign ownership.

Ivanhoe's copper and gold discoveries in Mongolia sparked a gold rush by western mining firms in the past two years.

By the end of 2003, Ivanhoe Mines had secured approximately $333 million in international equity financing since drilling in Southern Mongolia.

Ivanhoe is focused on the production of base and precious metals and the development of new producing assets and exploration discoveries.

Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. is the country's top producer of gold and its by-products, such as copper and silver. Its affiliate, Manila Mining, started mining operations in Placer, Surigao del Norte in 1981.

# BSP keeps policy rates unchanged

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board yesterday decided to keep its key policy rates steady for the 17th consecutive month, even as it expressed caution over inflationary pressures caused by supply bottlenecks.

The decision was made despite the US Federal Reserve's move to further tighten its policy rates yesterday by another 25 basis points to 2.25 percent.

The BSP's policy-making body maintained its overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate at 6.75 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9 percent.

"Inflation is transitory. Besides, the government has been successful in addressing the supply side and I think there's a tapering off in the oil price increases," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a press briefing.

Buenaventura said the supply bottlenecks on food had been addressed by lowering the tariffs on the importation of key commodities.

"If you raise (BSP policy rates) now, it will just jack up the cost of borrowings. We're seeing some good growth of loan and we don't want to cut in at this point because loan growth is not causing inflation," Buenaventura said.

It was noted during the Monetary Board discussion that the easing of the situation in world energy markets had already led to a downward shift in monetary authorities' expected inflation path, particularly in the months leading to 2006.

But the BSP could not promise to keep interest rates at the same levels for long, as it started to see pressures from the supply side, which were also affecting consumer demand.

"It (tightening) may have to happen early next year, particularly when the Fed moves (its own rates) to 3-4 pefcent," Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura said the BSP had asked its economic research department to look for ways to address the supply side pressures on services.

"We're also looking at the second round of supply side pressures, particularly on transport fares. It (increase in transport fares) will be done only once but it could affect other costs, Buenaventura said.

Monetary authorities believe price pressures across various commodity groups are still outweighed by the relatively high unemployment rate and moderate credit activity in the economy. This means that as there are more people who are not earning wages, there is less consumer demand.

Demand pressures come in when consumers decide to spend more, usually when they lose the incentive to keep their money in savings instruments due to low interest rates.

The BSP uses an inflation rate-targeting model in setting its overnight policy rates, which in turn are used by banks as benchmark in pricing their own loans.

The country's annual inflation rate further rose to 7.1 percent in October from 6.9 percent in September. This brought the year-to-date average inflation rate to 5.1 percent.


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# Bayer unit putting up seed production plant

By Christine A. Gaylican

BAYER Crop Science Philippines will put up a new seed production facility in Davao next year, which will lead to no less than P60 million in new investments in the province.

The facility will allow the Philippine subsidiary of the German-based biotechnology firm to acquire its entire seed requirement locally instead of importing from affiliates in other countries, particularly India, CBayer Crop BioScience manager Carlos Miguel Saplala said in an interview recently.

"We will increase our local seed production and support on-time delivery of quality seeds," said Saplala.

The Davao-based plant will have a capacity of 1,000 metric tons, as compared to its existing facility in San Mateo, Rizal, which has a capacity of 800 metric tons. The seed facility will have the capability to dry, grade, sort and treat seeds against storage pests," he said.

Bayer claimed this was the only facility in the country that produced a bacterial blight-resistant hybrid rice seed. These seeds improve the farmers' yields to as much as 12 metric tons per hectare. .

Saplala said hybrid rice seeds had a big market potential in the Philippines.

The Philippines is targeting to have one million hectares of farmlands planted to hybrid rice by 2007, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

"For this crop year, the DA is looking at 200,500 hectares of hybrid-rice lands. This will be expanded to 250,000 hectares in the May to October season next year, and 350,000 hectares in the November 2005 to April 2006 season," Yap said.

# HK-listed firm bags contract

From page B4

Vincent Perez said in a statement yesterday.

The service contract covers 748,000 hectares of land that, as operator, South Sea Petroleum will explore and develop.

The Hong Kong-based firm will initially conduct geological and geophysical studies on the land, including the drilling of three exploratory wells.

For the initial seven-year exploration period, the company will be investing about $2.75 million.

Perez earlier said that Malacañang was also likely to approve within the month the exploration contract that the DOE was currently negotiating with a consortium led by Australian natural gas firm BHP Billiton Petroleum.

Although BHP Billiton and consortium members Unocal Corp., Amerada Hess and Sandakan Oil already submitted bids to explore two blocks spanning 8,000 kilometers in the deepwater part of the Southern Sulu Sea, he said negotiations with the consortium were prolonged because of a January 2004 Supreme Court decision declaring Republic Act No. 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act, unconstitutional.

Under its proposed work program, BHP Billiton will initially be investing $1.65 million for the geophysical studies on the two blocks and another $32 million for the drilling of four wells.

The reversal of the earlier Supreme Court decision on the Mining Act would likewise prompt state firm Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. and Petronas Carigali to move ahead with their service contract application for oil and gas exploration over offshore South Mindoro.

"We expect oil and gas exploration companies to take a second look at our petroleum resource following this landmark decision," Perez said.

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# *Superferry 8 upgrade gets BOI incentives*

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments approved last Dec. 1 the grant of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to Aboitiz Transport System Corp. for the P428.4-million upgrade of former Superferry 8, now Superferry 19, into a state-of-the-art vessel.

According to a BOI statement, the upgrade involved the increase in passenger capacity to 2,420 from 2,236, although its cargo capacity will be maintained at 103 twenty-foot equivalent units.

The modernization program also involves the rehabilitation of the vessel's engine and monitoring control system, as well as the installation of the latest in accommodation facilities for passengers.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also BOI chief, said the development of the local shipping and transport industry was vital in achieving the nation's goals of sufficiency, modernization, global competitiveness and regional integration.

Superferry 19, which started operation early this year, services the Manila-Cebu-Dumaguete-Cebu-Manila route and the Manila-Dumaguete-Iligan-Ozamis-Cebu-Manila route.

ATSC acquired Superferry 19 from Japan and was registered with the BOI in 1994 under the inter-island ship modernization program.

# EPCIBank sells another ₱2.2B worth of assets to Lehman

By Doris C. Dumlao

EQUITABLE PCI Bank sold P2.2 billion in additional idle assets to Lehman Brothers, completing the P10.5-billion targeted special purpose vehicle (SPV) transaction with the US investment bank.

The country's third biggest bank yesterday announced that it had signed a second agreement with an affiliated company of Lehman Brothers South East Asia Pte Ltd.

EPCIBank earlier executed the sale to Lehman Brothers of the first tranche of non-performing loans worth P8.32 billion.

The second tranche of assets included real and other properties owned and acquired.

Both transactions are still subject to the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and compliance with other closing conditions.

In a statement, EPCIBank chair Antonio L. Go said: "We have completed an important part of our strategy to enhance our already strong balance sheet and free up a substantial part of our idle assets for more revenue generating activities. This greatly improves our potential for further growth."

The bank plans to maximize all the benefits the SPV Law has to offer, particularly tax and transaction cost savings.

The 2002 SPAV Law, Republic Act No. 9182, waives the documentary stamp tax, the capital gains tax and the e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and reduces the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent on SPV transactions.

Aside from SPV sales, EPCIBank is also pursuing a strategy that involves retail public auctions and direct sales to reduce its idle assets.

The bank posted a net profit for the nine months to September of P1.2 billion, 22 percent higher than the level a year ago. This was attributed to higher gross interest and fee-based incomes.

From January to September, net interest income stood at P6.2 billion, 54 percent better than a year ago.

Compared to previous year's level, third quarter net profit jumped by 63 percent to P521 million.

As of the third quarter, the bank's assets stood at P303 billion, while total deposits amounted to P187 billion.

# Gov't preparing bond float for 2005 funding requirement

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing a sovereign bond issue for its $4-billion financing requirement for 2005.

The plan is to hold the bond issue before the US Federal Reserve increases its rates anew.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said the finance department was now determining the best time to hold the bond float.

"The market is starting to close for the holidays, but it is still a market where there will be buyers and demand could be essentially strong," he said in an interview.

Recto, however, declined to disclose when exactly the government was planning to tap the foreign credit market and how much it was intending to borrow.

The finance official went on a business trip to Hong Kong last week to meet with potential investors, but he begged off to discuss the details.

"We will have to see what market condition will dictate. The prospects of higher US interest rate confronting us is very real," he said.

Of the government's $4-billion financing requirement for next year, it plans to raise as much as 50 percent from abroad.

An increase in the US interest rates results in the narrowing of gap between earnings to be generated from bonds issued by the United States and by the Philippines. The narrower the gap, the more difficult it is to convince investors to prefer Philippine sovereign bonds over those of the United States.

The policy rate of the US Federal Reserve is now at 2 percent. The US Fed said it was looking at increasing its policy rate to 4 percent in 2005.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas refused to raise the local policy rate, saying its gap with the US rate was still comfortable. The BSP, however, said it might consider raising the rate if the US Federal Open Market Committee hikes its policy rate by another two percentage points.

"The challenge here is how we can compress the spreads brought about by uncertainty of the fiscal situation," Recto said. The fiscal reform measures set by the Arroyo administration, such as the recently passed sin tax bill, is one way to show the credit market that the Philippines is improving its credit worthiness, he added.

The finance official said the government would try getting rates that are not too far from what it got from its $1-billion bond issue in September.

The $1-billion bond issue made in September was intended to fund the financing requirement of state-owned National Power Corp.

# Lucio Tan . . .

From page B1

from manufacturing to banking, from aviation to education. He is known to have extensive investments in China, Hong Kong and Guam.

In the 1990s, Tan's group entered into the soft beverage market with products like Hansen juice drink and Pacific Sun iced tea.

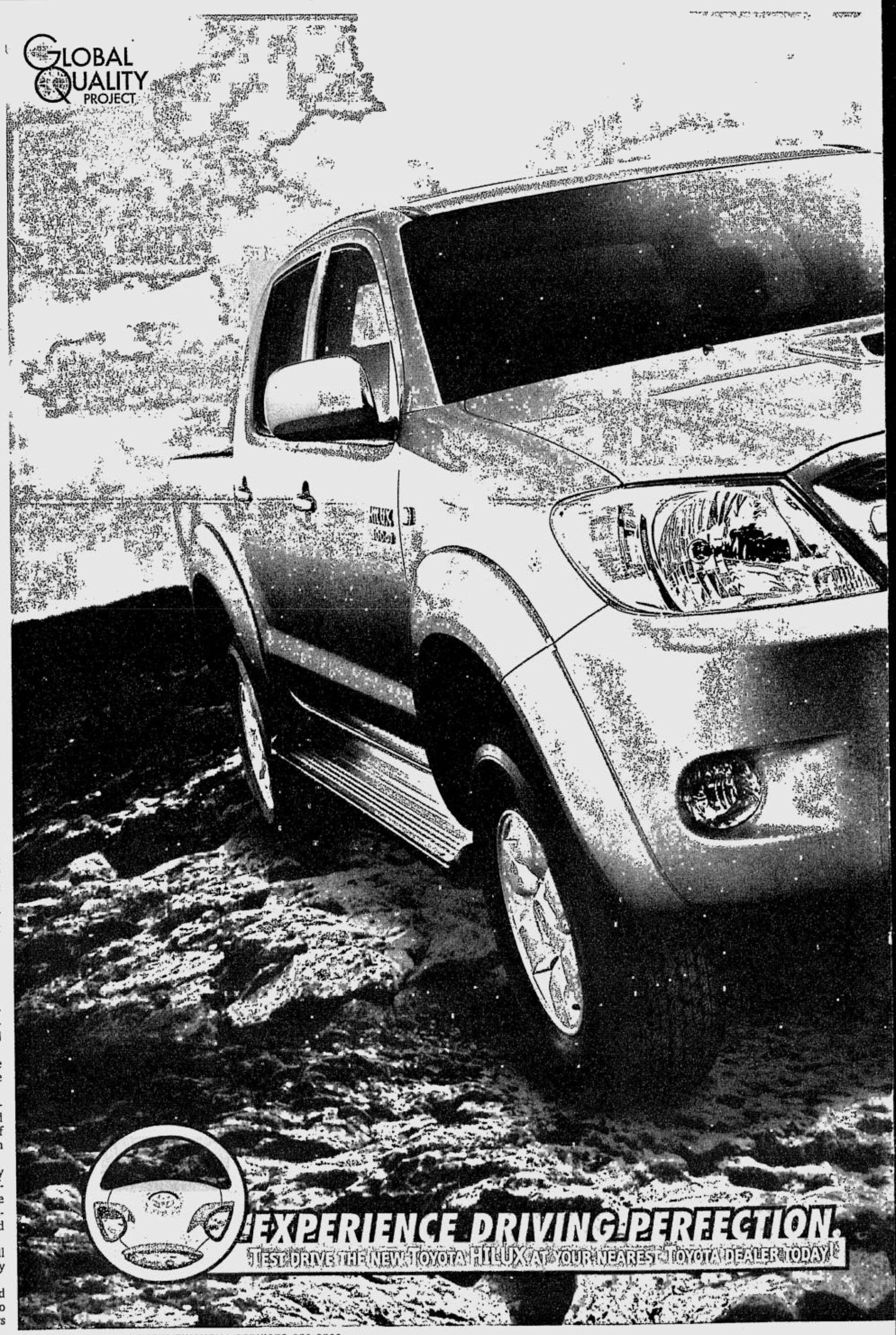
Aside from Tan, industry sources confirmed that Cirio was also in talks with food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.. As of the third quarter, SMC has cash assets worth P24 billion.

San Miguel is targetting to raise roughly $300 million from its planned stock rights offering in January to partly fund its aggressive expansion in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, and possibly fund its bid for tinned manufacturing firm DMPL.

Should it succeed in its bid, San Miguel will have to make a tender offer for minority shareholders of DMPL.

Separately, the Financial Times reported that aside from Tan and SMC, Sumitomo Group of Japan was among the final bidders for Cirio's 40-percent stake.

Italian food firm Cirio Finanziara S.p.A. is in advanced talks with three bidders for its 40-percent stake in DMPL. The commissioners of the Italian company said in a recent disclosure that Cirio would select one of the bidders "if the terms are acceptable and proceed to enter into a sale and purchase agreement for the disposal" of its 39.99-percent stake. The final bidders were not identified.



10 TRADE MISSIONS

# Philippines-Japan investment talks gain ground

MORE Japanese firms now want to explore possibilities of doing business in the country

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENT activities between the Philippines and Japan has picked up since talks on an economic partnership agreement (EPA) began earlier this year, according to the Japan External Trade Organization.

Toshio Asakura, executive director of Jetro Manila, yesterday said in a press briefing that the agency received at least 10 investment missions from Japan since September when negotiations on the Japan-Philippines EPA reached the fourth round.

The Ayala-group's Integrated Microelectronics Inc. also announced it was setting up a representative office in Japan, which would open in January.

The two governments began talks on the JPEPA last February this year, and earlier this month agreed to fast-track the finalization of the agreement.

"There was very little (investment inquiries on the Philippines from Japanese companies) in 2003," Asakura said. "But the JPEPA talks meant Philippine exposure to Japanese media, which resulted in a surge of missions this year."

More Japanese firms now want to explore possibilities of doing business in the country, he said.

Data from the Board of Investments show that total inflow of direct investments from Japan in the first quarter of 2004 reached P11.98 billion, exceeding the P8.84-billion inflow in 2003.

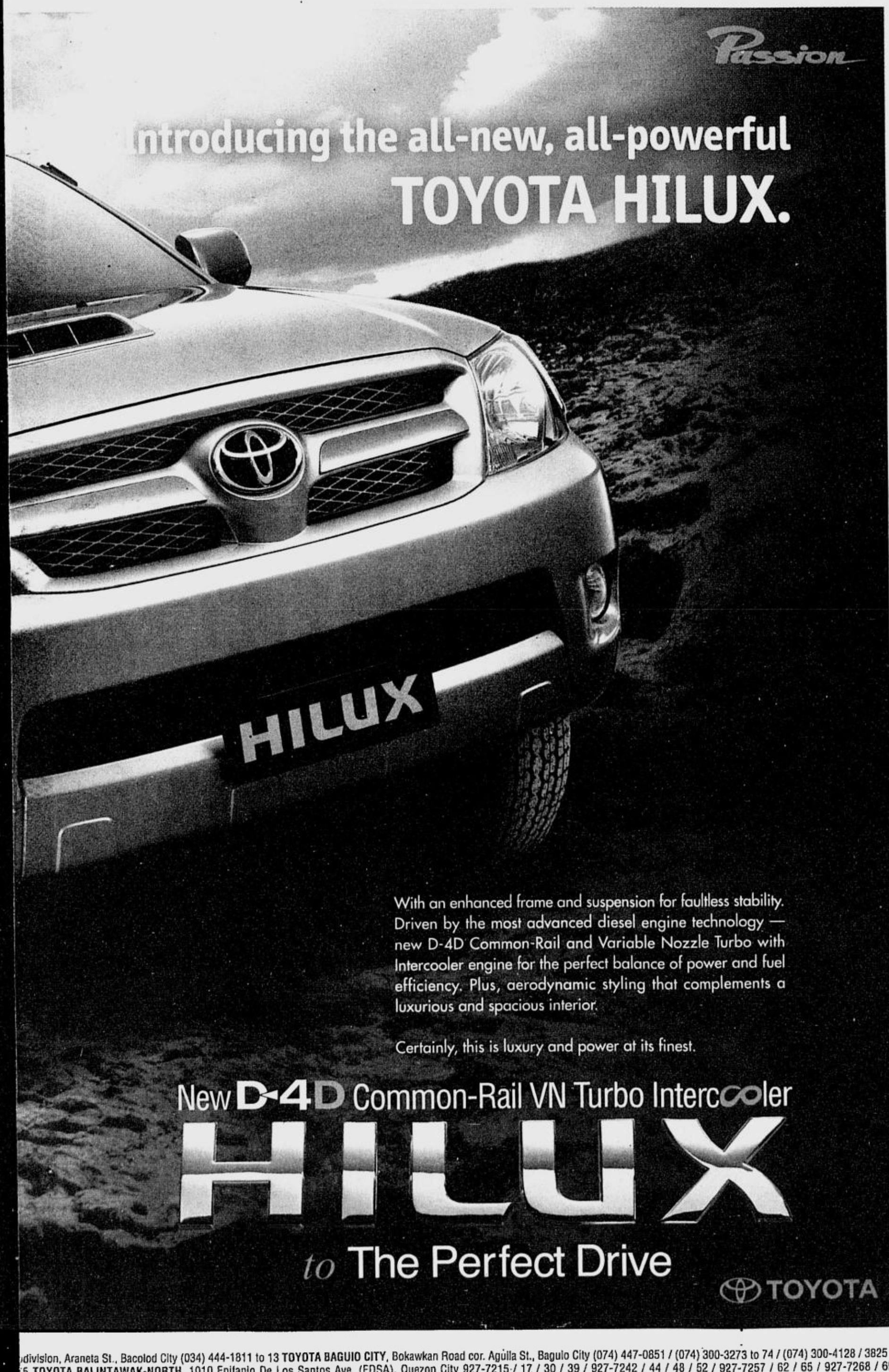
"We expect direct capital inflow from Japan to the Philippines to increase more substantially when JPEPA is realized," Asakura said.

In a related development, Asakura said Jetro's Business Support Center in the Philippines had hosted 19 small and medium enterprises from Japan who were exploring business opportunities here.

Established in March 2003, the Jetro BSCP helps Japan-based SMEs by providing free office space and other assistance geared toward incubating business ideas.

Asakura said that of the 19 SMEs, 13 have already started businesses here while 11 are already registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

There are currently five SMEs holding office at the Jetro BSCP, including two that are involved in software development firms, one in recycling systems, one in copper processing and another in advertising photography.

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# Piltel may cut NTC payment by P500M

By Clarissa S. Batino

MOBILE phone operator Pilipino Telephone Corp. may cut by P500 million its unpaid regulatory obligations of P1.3-billion with the National Telecommunications Commission.

This came after the Department of Justice issued an opinion that said that while the NTC had the authority to compute fees slapped against telecommunications companies, it had to go through the process.

"The NTC must first pass upon the protest of Piltel and determine whether or not its computation of the said corporation's SRF (supervision and regulatory fees) is in accordance with law and jurisprudence before it imposes the corresponding penalties for non-observance of its regulations," the DOJ said in a six-page opinion.

The opinion came after Piltel, a subsidiary of Smart Communications Inc., contested the NTC's assessment of P1.3 billion in outstanding regulatory dues.

Of the P1.3 billion in fees, about P500 million represented penalties and surcharges.

Piltel said that it had been making payments to the NTC under protest, thus, the regulatory body must not collect penalties.

In arguing its case, Piltel noted that even the Bureau of Internal Revenue agreed to reduce its assessment of the company's tax liabilities in 2002.

"The NTC is authorized to assess regulatory fees only as payment for a reasonable cost of supervision and regulation by the NTC. What the commission is doing is already confiscatory in nature," said a Piltel official.

NTC chair Ronald Solis, on the other hand, said the commission would "seriously consider" the justice department opinion and determine its implications.

Phone, broadcast networks and cable companies must pay the NTC an annual regulatory fee computed at 50 centavos for every P100 in paid-up capital.

The NTC said that as of September, it collected P783.2 million in regulatory fees from 290 broadcast networks and 56 radio and phone operators, of which P720 million came from telecommunications companies.

PLDT paid P234.5 million followed by fierce rival Globe with P156.1 million.

PLDT subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. settled P121.6 million in regulatory dues.

# LBP to extend more loans to agri sector

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LAND BANK of the Philippines (Landbank) will devote more loans next year to farmers, fisherfolk and small and medium enterprises.

Landbank president and chief executive officer Margarito B. Teves said that as the bank's loans increase to P130 billion next year, its loan exposure to these priority sectors will go up by another 5 percent from the current 60 percent.

"We have reached our December 2004 target, which is actually 60 percent of the Bank's loan portfolio for our priority sectors," Teves said. "This is higher than the 56 percent share we reached in December 2003."

Teves said LBP hit its year-end target as early as July.

Loans to agribusiness in the first seven months accounted for 14 percent or P17.8 billion of LBP's portfolio, followed by SMEs (small-to-medium-enterprises) with a 13 percent share at P16.6 billion; while loans to farmers and fisherfolks groups accounted for 12 percent at P15 billion; agri-infrastructure got 8 percent at P10.5 billion, agri-related projects also got an eight percent share at P9.9 billion.

Landbank's priority sectors also cover micro-enterprises, livelihood projects, agribusiness agri-infrastructure and environment-related projects.

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•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

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2% w/o Taking Car 5315577

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE AMELIA LUNES-ELICIERTO OF GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS UNDER DOC. NO. 47; PAGE NO. 11; BOOK NO. XXIV; SERIES OF 2004 OF NOTARY PUBLIC DANILO CARRIAGA OF QUEZON CITY ON NOV. 24, 2004
PDI-Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2004

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fronting Vicunia Supermarket Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 444-6526
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Doña Francisca, Balanga City, Bataan
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St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
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**ASST. PLANT MANAGER**

Male/Female 30 and above. A graduate of any Engineering / Business Administration related courses in any prestigous Universities in Manila preferably a Masters Degree holder. Must have minimum of 3 to 5 years experience in Manufacturing firm. Can speak Mandarin, Foklen. Should be fluent in English. Can work in a minimum supervision and willing to work overtime.

**For inquiries please contact (047) 252-5395/96 and look for Ms. Arlene Barba.**

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION**

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of **ACM PLASTIC PHILIPPINES CORP.** shortening the term of its existence up to September 30, 2004 thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been approved by its Board of Directors.

All persons having claims against said corporation is requested to present same at Lot 7 Block 31 Kiel St., Mercedes Village, Cainta, Rizal.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd) RAMIL L. LOPEZ

(PDI - Dec. 17, 24 & 31, 2004)

## PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
## INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The assets are being offered on an "as-is, where-is" basis, at the Indicative Prices presented below. Sealed offers shall be received at 3:00 p.m. on the following schedules at PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

| Asset Name/ Location | Indicative Price (in Philippine Currency) | Date of Submission of Offers |
|---|---|---|
| **Sanifoods Processing Corp.** Land (19,974 sq.m.), buildings and other land improvements located at Brgy. Concepcion, Rosario, La Union | P9,933,900 | January 17, 2005 |
| **Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Corp.** Land (10.20 hectares) at No. 1275 ME General Trias Drive, Barangay Tejeros Convention, Rosario, Cavite | P154,449,000 | January 18, 2005 |

The above assets are being offered at Indicative Prices payable within a maximum term of two (2) years.

Interested parties may secure the sale documents for non-refundable fees of P500 for Sanifoods and P1,000 for Pioneer Glass.

For more information, please contact the PMO Marketing Office at telephone nos. 817-6331; 817-8762; 818-4733; 892-2145 fax no. 818-0906.

(PDI - Dec. 15, 16 & 17, 2004)

## NOTICE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Notice is hereby given that at 10.00 AM on 1st March 2005 a hearing will be held before Mr. Justice Lugar-Mawson in the Hong Kong Court of First Instance in respect of absconder proceedings leading to a confiscation order under the provisions of Section 8 of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance, Cap 455 of the Laws of Hong Kong, in respect of the following persons and companies who are named as Respondents.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amador PASTRANA<br>Philippines passport ZZ017001<br>Date of birth 4th May 1972. | Respondent 1 |
| Alpha Company Ltd<br>Company No 15011 | Respondent 2 |
| Jindell Investment Ltd<br>Company No 367520 | Respondent 3 |
| Jupiter Advisory Ltd<br>Company No 407452 | Respondent 4 |
| First Pacific Company Ltd<br>Company No 7009 | Respondent 5 |
| Systems International Ltd<br>Company No105043B | Respondent 6 |
| Calimax Enterprises Ltd<br>Company No 407451 | Respondent 7 |
| Cyplus Company Ltd<br>Company No 114160B | Respondent 8 |
| Jopio Company Ltd<br>Company No 16592 | Respondent 9 |
| Nobuko Investments Ltd<br>Company No 371740 | Respondent 10 |
| Prudence International Ltd<br>Company No 16156 | Respondent 11 |
| Wains International Company Ltd<br>Company No 391025 | Respondent 12 |
| Moneycare International Ltd<br>Company No 407450 | Respondent 13 |
| Chamomile International Ltd<br>Company No 741159 | Respondent 14 |
| Highstone Investments Ltd<br>Company No 112158B | Respondent 15 |
| Sabre International Ltd<br>Company No 6470 | Respondent 16 |
| Vantage International Management Group Inc.<br>Company No 8403 | Respondent 17 |
| Union Trading Ltd<br>Company No 15014 | Respondent 18 |
| Novelle Investment Partners Ltd (Bahamas)<br>Company No 81563B | Respondent 19 |
| United Resources Asset Management Inc<br>SEC Reg No A200005310 | Respondent 20 |
| Allied European Holdings Ltd<br>Company No 8313 | Respondent 21 |

Any person or company who is a Respondent can obtain a copy of documents and affirmations in relation to the hearing from either Ma. Elmira A. Alconaba, Assistant Director, Compliance and Enforcement Department, Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, or Detective Senior Inspector David COPE, Financial Investigations Division, Hong Kong Police, 21st Floor, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters, Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. HCMP 4221 of 2002 refers.

(PDI - Dec. 15, 16 & 17, 2004)

*CAGELCO II*

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following materials and equipment:

1. WOOD AND CONCRETE POLES, WIRES, TRANSFORMERS, INSULATORS AND OVERHEAD FAULT INDICATORS

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1) Accreditation requirements (for submission to PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y. Madamba)
   a) Company Profile
   b) Business Registration
   c) Business Permit
   d) BIR/VAT Certificate
   e) Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f) List of Clients for a period of 3 years, if applicable
2) Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for the bid documents during the pre-bidding conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expense or, losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline of submission of requirements – December 29, 2004.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – Dec. 17 & 22, 2004)

## NFA imports rice for food security

TO MAINTAIN enough food security stocks for the country, the National Food Authority is set to conduct a public bidding on the 2nd week of January for the supply of 320,000 metric tons of long grain white rice in 15 percent and 25 percent broken grains.

While the bidding for the importation is set, the NFA continuously monitors the world market price to get a better import price from the different source countries.

NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the bidding is being conducted earlier to give the agency a lead-time in negotiating for the best price of imports. He said that right timing of imports is carefully taken into consideration that could be beneficial to both the farmers and the consumers without putting the country's food security in jeopardy.

"The decision on the awards will depend on the reasonableness of the price offers," Tan said.

To be held at the Food Development Center in Taguig, the public bidding is open to government and private suppliers with proven good track records for the last two years.

The recent series of typhoons that hit major rice producing areas have also delayed the harvest of the summer crop.

Weather forecasts have indicated that palay-producing areas in the country will experience dry spells as a result of the El Niño phenomenon.

The volume of rice imports is being determined by an Inter-Agency Committee on Rice and Corn composed of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), the weather bureau PAG-ASA, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Farmers' Action Council (NFAC), the NFA and the Department of Agriculture as chairman. Other members on call are the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and PhilRice.

The committee meets on a quarterly basis to assess local production and other factors such as weather disturbances to be able to determine any shortfall in supply of both commodities.

**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
Quezon City

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **January 06, 2005** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila**, among all interested rice suppliers for the **supply of maximum 320,000 MT, 5% MOLSO, long grain white rice, 15% and 25% brokens of Thailand, Vietnam and/or China origin in 50 kilograms net capacity polypropylene bags** with an appropriated budget of Php 5.60B from corporate resources.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations for all specifications and all modes of payment otherwise, bids will be considered non-responsive. Price shall be quoted in US$ per MT, CFR, FO, one (1) safe port, one/two safe berths under the following payment terms:

a. Documents Against Payment (D/P), mandatory bid
b. Documents against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of one hundred eighty (180) days from B/L date, mandatory bid
c. Documents against Acceptance (D/A) or Deferred Payment with a tenor of:
   c.1 three hundred sixty (360) days from B/L date, optional bid
   c.2 seven hundred twenty (720) days from B/L date, optional bid

| Arrival Period | Volume to be Offered (MT) |
|---|---|
| Not Later Than 28 February 2005 | At least 50% |
| Not Later Than 15 April 2005 | Balance |

Government suppliers and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within **the last two (2) years (2003/2004) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded a maximum of 300,000 MT and 25,000 MT 5% MOLSO, respectively. New suppliers without any track record with NFA, may be awarded a maximum of 15,000 MT. However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2003 are considered to have bad track records.** Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 10% of the highest value offered quantity in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank. Bid bond can be converted to performance bond.

List of Eligibility Requirements maybe secured starting **10 December 2004** thru **MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ**, Assistant Department Manager and **MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO**, Division Chief III, **Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City with telephone numbers 712-1564; 742-4140; 743-8696; 711-7433; 740-1977; 712-1708; and 712-1572.**

The terms of reference and bid documents will be available from **December 10-29, 2004** (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P7,500.00

The **pre-bidding conference** will be held on **December 21, 2004** at **10:00 a.m.** at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.**

**Submission of bids will be on January 06, 2005 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.** at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Opening of bids** will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

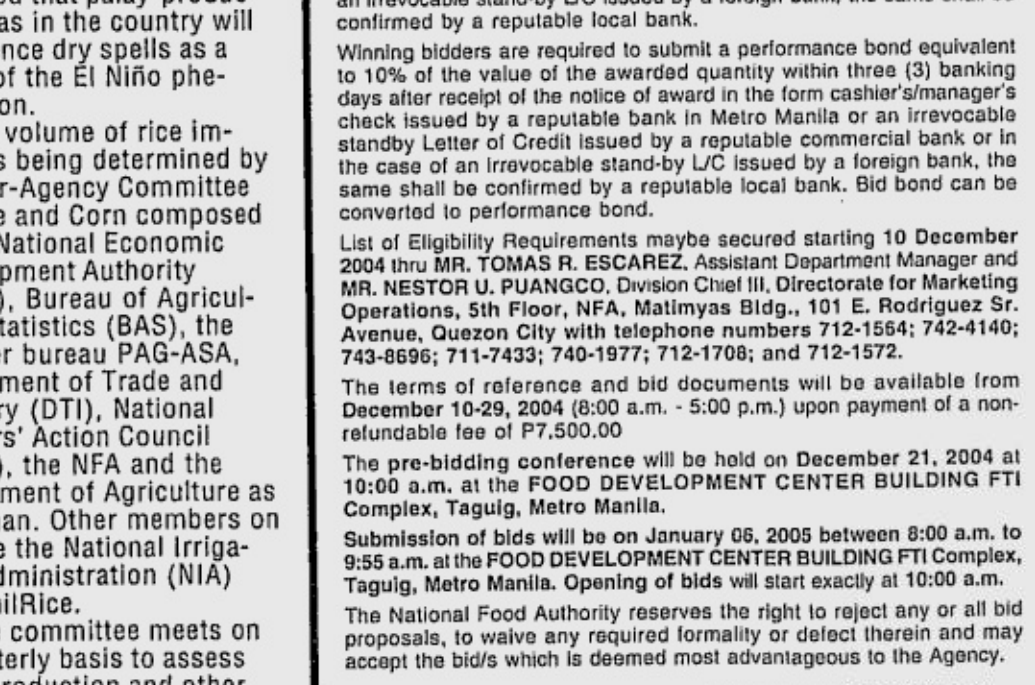
The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – December 10 & 17, 2004)

## EXTRA JOSS EXTRA CASH WINNER

The Extra Joss Extra Cash raffle promo has just concluded in the Greater Manila Area (GMA). Grand prize winner was awarded to Remigio T. Sicat. Shown in photo are: (from left) Extra Joss' country manager Lewi Kurniawan, Grand prize winner and his wife Remigio T. Sicat and president of Dancerg Marketing and Promotions Services Cergen Go. The draw in the Greater Manila are was held last Oct 30, at the Star City Roxas Boulevard. Extra Joss is a sugar free energy drink in powder with Vitamin B complex, ginseng and taurine and is available in all supermarkets, drugstores, and convenience stores.



## ENERGY INVESTMENT FORUM

Participants to the Energy Forum organized by the Department of Energy about the energy financing programs of the DBP include leaders and stakeholders in the energy sector while (inset) DBP president and CEO Reynaldo G. David briefs participants.

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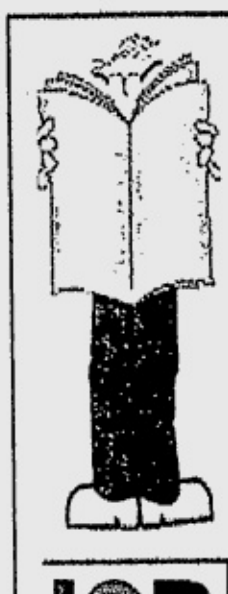

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# Russia oil firm files for bankruptcy to stop key unit's sale

HOUSTON—Russian oil group Yukos has filed for bankruptcy protection in a United States court in an attempt to stop Russia's government from auctioning off its main production unit, Yukos officials on Wednesday said.

US Bankruptcy Judge Letitia Clark in Houston scheduled a session for Thursday to hear arguments in the Chapter 11 filing on whether the court should issue a temporary restraining order blocking the planned sale, scheduled for Dec. 19.

"We are here to stop 60 percent of our body from being cut off on Sunday," Zack Clement, a lawyer for Yukos, told Clark in an emergency hearing on Wednesday. The Russian government was not represented at the hearing.

Yukos has also asked the Houston court to order Russia to arbitration so that it can press claims for billions of dollars in damages over a "campaign of illegal, discriminatory and disproportionate" tax claims.

The Russian authorities plan to auction Yuganskneftegaz, the crown jewel of fallen oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky's business empire, in pursuit of $27 billion in back-tax claims against Yukos.

The auction's starting price is $9 billion.

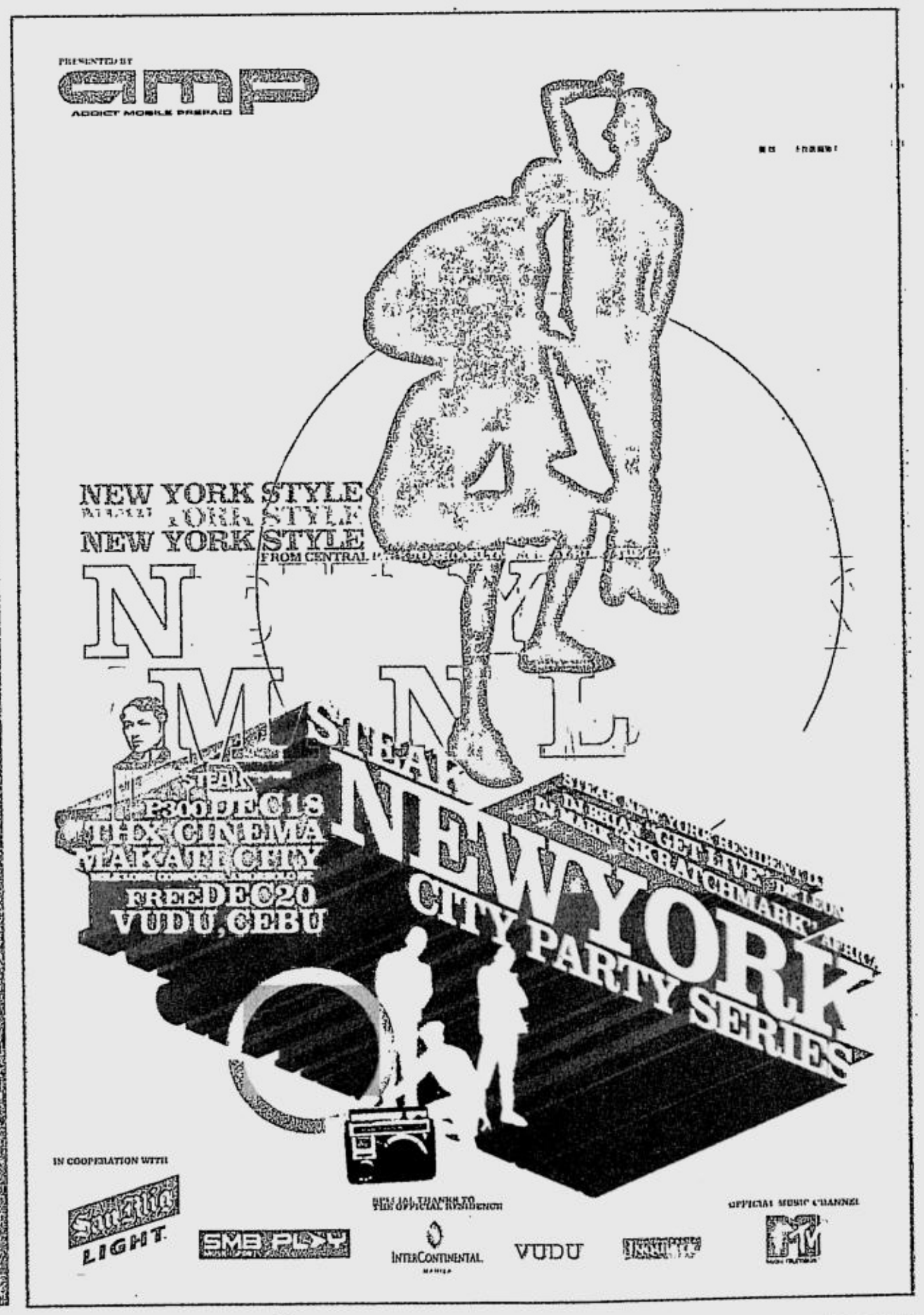
Khodorkovsky is on trial for fraud and tax evasion in what many see as a Kremlin drive to bring Russia's super-rich business elite to heel and regain control over the "commanding heights" of the economy lost in the privatizations of the 1990s.

INNA, wife of jailed former Yukos head Mikhail Khodorkovsky, at an awarding ceremony in Moscow. AP

"The steps we took today were done as a last resort to preserve the rights of our shareholders, employees and customers," Yukos CEO Steven Theede said in a statement.

Russia's State Property Fund said preparations for Sunday's auction were going ahead as planned. State-controlled gas monopoly Gazprom is expected to win the contest and is lining up record financing for its bid.

But lawyers—and even its main shareholder—were unsure the gambit of filing for US bankruptcy protection would win Yukos a stay of execution. Three of Yukos' independent directors quit on Wednesday. *Reuters*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# OBITUARIES

In celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of our beloved father,

## BIENVENIDO Y. DIZON

(FORMER PRESIDENT, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK)

memorial masses
will be celebrated today,
December 17, 2004 in the
following churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| Santo Domingo Church<br>Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City | 7:00 a.m. |
| Christ the King Parish Church<br>Green Meadows, Quezon City | 7:00 a.m. |
| St. Alphonsus de Liguori<br>Magallanes Village, Makati | 7:00 a.m. |
| Sanctuario de San Antonio<br>Forbes Park, Makati | 6:00 p.m. |
| Sanctuario de San Jose<br>Greenhills East, San Juan | 6:15 p.m. |
| Redemptorist Church<br>Cebu City | 5:30 p.m. |

***His children, Imelda, Manuel and Regina, John and Ana Marie, Francisco and Joyce request those whose lives he touched and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.***

Our Dearly Beloved

## FRANCISCO CHANCO GUZMAN, JR.

**President of Grandpro Management Resources, Inc.**
**President of Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM)**

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on December 14, 2004 at the age of 58.*

His loving wife **Lulu**; children **Lani** & **Francis**; mother **Luming**; brothers & sisters & in-laws **Donding** & **Gigi Guzman**, **Linda** & **Romy Fuentebella**, **Flory** & **Chato Guzman**, **Tita** & **Rico Lagman**, **Prechs** & **Oly Del Rosario**, **Marijo** & **Henry Inouye**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City, Metro Manila (Inside Manila Memorial Park)**.

Cremation will be on **Sunday, December 19, 2004** after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the La Funeraria Paz Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City.

*"I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in Me, even if she dies, will live." John 11:25-26*

## EUSEBIA SORIANO BARCELON

**(of Pulilan, Bulacan and New Manila, Quezon City)**

*Went home to the Father on 15 December 2004 at the age of 89.*

Her children **LEONCIO, RENATO** and **VICKY; FR. TERRY, SJ, TERESITA**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul, now reunited with her late husband **EMETERIO**.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 19 December at the La Loma Cemetery after the celebration of the funeral Mass.

**For further information, please call: 681-9940**

**"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."**
Matthew 10:39

*"And the time has come for my departure, I have finished the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*

## CESAR TAN CHUA

*Peacefully joined our Lord on December 14, 2004 at the age of 64.*

His loving wife **NARCISA**; children **CAROLYN, JEFFREY, CARLOS, CECILIA**; son-in-law **MEL**; daughters-in-law **PEACHY, BELEN**; grandchildren **ANDREW, DANIELLE, MARTIN, VERONICA, KATRINA, ALEXANDRA, CHARLES** give thanks to the Lord for his life.

His body lies in state at Imperial Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, December 19, 2004 at 7:00 a.m. and cremation will follow immediately.

*" I am the Resurrection and the Life; He who believes in Me will Live even though he dies. And whoever believes in Me will never die."*
*John 11:25-26*

## JULIA ABES VDA. DE FALCON

*Peacefully Joined our Lord on December 12, 2004 at the age of 75.*
Even as we mourn her passing, we celebrate her life and legacy as she is now with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
We are very grateful to God for her earthly life with us.

Her loving children Samuel Rolando, Jose Rolando, Julandu Rosario; daughters and sons-in-law Dinah Florella and Ashur Bastasa, Nelanie and Perfecto Cadano, Atty. Maria Flora Falcon and Johannes Zehethofer; son and daughter-in-law Julian Rolando and Cecilia Hernandez; brothers and sisters-in-law Joe and Dayang, Lope and Nita, Berting and Trining, Mano and Vet, Landy and Neey; grandchildren, nephews, nieces and cousins.

Her body lies in state at UP Los Baños' St. Therese Chapel, Los Baños, Laguna until December 17, 2004. Her remains will be transferred to Naga City at Imperial Funeral Homes for vigil until December 19, 2004. Interment follows at Calabanga Catholic Cemetery after a funeral mass at 3:00 o' clock in the afternoon on Sunday, December 19, 2004, at La Porteria Parish Church, Calabanga, Camarines Sur.

**WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.**

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

## MATEO R. OLORES

of Indang, Cavite

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 20, 2004*

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

**SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION**

announce with deep sorrow the demise of

## MARIANO A. LIMJAP

Retired Senior Vice President

*who passed away in the Grace of the Lord*
*on December 12, 2004*

He is survived by his wife, **Sofia**;
children: **Lita, Boboy, Mike, Ayee, Biso, Mina & Manny**

His body was cremated on December 16, 2004
at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

*An obituary with picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

*Always caring...* **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

- **DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT**
- **MESSAGE OF THANKS**
- **DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
- **REQUIEMS**
- **FREE OBIT DESIGN**

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* John 14:6

JAPAN VEHICLE OUTPUT CUT

# Car firms scramble for steel

TOKYO—Japanese industry is rushing to ensure stable supplies of steel from South Korea and Australia as a global shortage, caused largely by China's booming economy, leads to further production cuts by automakers.

Suzuki Motor, Japan's top mini-vehicle maker, said Thursday it would cut output by 20,000 units, or 3.8 percent of planned production for the six months to March 2005, due to lack of steel.

With demand brisk at home and abroad, Suzuki has taken the unprecedented step of seeking an emergency steel supply overseas—from South Korean giant Posco, the world's fifth-largest steel mill.

"We've never had a situation like this," a Suzuki spokesperson said. "It is particularly tough because the shortage has hit us at a time when our car sales have been really strong in Japan and abroad."

Suzuki had planned to make 530,000 vehicles in Japan in the six months to March 2005, up from its earlier forecast of 437,000. But that figure will now be trimmed back to 510,000 vehicles.

In December, Suzuki decided against producing an extra 13,000 to keep up with demand due to the steel shortage.

A worldwide steel scrap shortage has been largely created by massive Chinese demand—the country last year accounted for more than 25 percent of the world's steel consumption.

Analysts believe the shortfall may not be solved until 2006, when new steelmaking facilities come onstream in China.

The shortage has already affected Nissan Motor, Japan's second-largest automaker which, in a bid to increase profits, has cut back on its number of steel suppliers.

Nissan suspended operations at three of its four domestic factories for a total of five days between Nov. 29 and Dec. 8, losing production of 25,000 cars.

Nissan also warned that further cutbacks might be necessary in 2005.

Japanese steelmakers, whose top clients are domestic manufacturers, are seeking to secure more stable long-term supply sources.

The country's top two steelmakers said Thursday they would acquire a 10-percent stake in an Australian operation and secure from it a total of 24 million tons of coking coal, a key material for steel, over the next 10 years.

Despite the supply problem, Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association chair Itaru Koeda said he sees no serious damage to the overall Japanese economy, which appears to be peaking out in an expansionary cycle as exports are slowing. *AFP*

## *Households acquiring Japan bonds hit record high*

TOKYO—THE NUMBER of Japanese households holding government debt jumped to record highs at the end of September as individual investors sought alternatives to bank deposits offering virtually zero interest.

Figures released by the Bank of Japan on Thursday showed total household holdings of Japanese government bonds (JGBs) jumped over 13 percent to 17.8 trillion yen ($170.7 billion) from 15.7 trillion yen at the end of June.

Analysts say this is due to the growing popularity of JGBs targeted at individual investors, given the relatively high interest rate returns on JGBs compared with those on saving deposits at banks which virtually yield zero interest.

"With interest rates on normal bank deposits at zero, it's understandable that people are choosing to buy JGBs," said Hideo Kumano, senior economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute.

Due to the BOJ's ultra-loose monetary policy of keeping overnight interest rates at near zero, interest on normal bank deposits yield only 0.001 percent.

Even the 10-year yen-deposits yield a puny 0.15 percent.

Meanwhile, holders of the latest 10-year floating rate JGBs, which are limited to private investors, will receive a coupon of 0.74 percent at their first payment in January.

Meeting strong demand from investors, the Ministry of Finance has been stepping up its issuance of retail-oriented JGBs.

It has issued more than 5 trillion yen of the JGBs since April, more than double its initial plan of 2.1 trillion yen. *Reuters*


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# Southeast Asia stocks up; oil rises

SINGAPORE—Losses in technology shares including Chartered Semiconductor pulled the Singapore stock market down on Thursday, but the Malaysian market rebounded from early lows after an upgrade of the country's foreign currency credit ratings by Moody's Investors Service.

Higher oil prices and data showing Malaysia's inflation at a five-year high had weighed on growth-sensitive banking stocks early on.

Elsewhere, Thailand opened slightly higher, helped by gains in banking stocks, a day after a surprise interest rate hike by the central bank.

Moody's said the upgrades reflected "the continued strengthening of Malaysia's external financial position."

However, it warned that the economy was still vulnerable to volatility in electronics exports.

Technology stocks such as Malaysian Pacific Industries and Unisem fell.

Government data on Wednesday showed the November consumer price index was up 2.2 percent from an year earlier, the biggest annual rise since an increase of 2.5 percent in December 1999.

Malaysia is a net exporter of crude oil but the cost of keeping down retail pump prices has weighed on government budget. The last pump price hike was in October—the second in five months.

Singapore's Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing fell about 7 percent to a 16-month low of 95.5 Singapore cents, a day after it forecast a lower fourth-quarter sales then previously projected. That prompted analysts to renew their "Sell" calls on the stocks.

The world's third-largest contract microchip maker said on Wednesday that it would earn between US$189 million and $193 million in fourth-quarter 2004 revenue, down from an earlier forecast of between $190 million and $196 million.

Meanwhile, oil which has jumped about 9 percent this week, climbed 21 cents to $44.40 a barrel after a drop in US heating fuel inventories and chilly weather in the US Northeast fanned worries of a winter supply crunch.

The dollar came within reach of a record low against the euro on renewed concerns about the ability of the United States to finance its ballooning deficits, with markets cautious ahead of US current account data later in the day.

Tokyo shares pared some losses to close down 0.3 percent at 10,924.37, led by a 1.8 percent fall in chip stock Tokyo Electron Analysts said recent data had sent out mixed signals on the economy, which was making trade difficult.

"It's difficult to make a bet on the economy either way and that's adding to the lack of direction for the market that will likely be with us in the near term," said Yutaka Shiraki, senior strategist at Mitsubishi Securities.

Mazda Motor Corp. fell 1.9 percent after a fire halted production at two plants in western Japan.

Japanese government bonds rose as stocks fell. The yield on the benchmark 265th 10-year cash bond fell 3.0 basis points at 1.335 percent, its lowest since March 25.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan was up half a percent by 0620 GMT, lifted by technology shares after the Nasdaq showed resilience in the face of rising oil to hit its highest close since June 2001.

Australian shares climbed 0.8 percent to a record high, lifted by gains in oil and gas producers Santos Ltd., up 2.1 percent, and Woodside Petroleum, up 1.4 percent. Miner BHP Billiton rose 1.5 percent.

A 2.7 percent rise in technology bellwether Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. lifted South Korean shares 0.6 percent.

Stock benchmarks gained 0.3 percent in Taiwan, but fell 0.2 percent in Hong Kong and half a percent in Singapore Airline stocks fell as oil jumped.

Oil prices, which have risen 36 percent so far this year, gained after data showed heating oil stocks fell 100,000 barrels last week to 49.9 million barrels, 13 percent lower than the same time last year. *Reuters*

# As dollar falls, Asia policy influence grows

SINGAPORE—As China ascends and the dollar falls, the balance of power in global financial markets is destined to shift slowly but surely in Asia's direction.

Although loose currency and monetary coordination will condemn Asia to punch below its economic weight for a long time to come, traders' obsession with the region's $2.35-trillion reserves pile is just one indication of its increasing influence. That influence grows in tandem with America's current account deficit: Asia's addiction to excess savings feeds America's addiction to excess consumption.

But Asia's growing clout also reflects its success in dusting itself off after a 1997-1998 crisis sent the region's currencies toppling like dominoes, triggering a recession.

Rob Subbaraman of Lehman Brothers says Asia, spurred by growing self-confidence, is finally emerging decisively from the shadow of the crisis: currencies will rise as much as 10-20 percent, domestic demand will bloom and non-Japan Asia's current account surplus, now 4.1 percent of GDP, will shrink.

Call it a coincidence, but days after 13 Asian leaders agreed to hold the first East Asian Summit—13 years after Washington quashed the idea—a regional financial group that included the United States decided this month to wind itself up.

The Manila Framework Group was formed at the height of the Asian crisis to promote financial stability and exchange views between Asia and the West.

"When the group was formed, I think US officials probably did not want Asian countries to decide everything without them knowing," one source close to the group's talks said.

Now, the boot is on the other foot.

Not only have the states bailed out by the IMF—Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines—repaid their loans and shown the fund the door, but Washington turned to China for help in reducing its trade deficit by inviting it in October to a meeting of finance ministers of the Group of Seven rich nations.

All the while, Asia has strengthened commercial ties, notably through a plan to slash tariffs between Southeast Asia and China by 2010 to create a 1.8 billion-strong free trade area. *Reuters*

# *China investment growth fuels expectation of tightening*

**A COUPLE get a close-up look at a Lamborghini Diablo VT parked in Beijing. Two decades of economic reforms in China have resulted in riches for some, but at least 29 million people still live below poverty levels, according to government figures.** AP

BEIJING—China yesterday said investment in plant and equipment eased only slightly in November which, combined with a higher US interest rates, fueled expectations of more tightening to cool the economy.

Investment in fixed assets in Chinese cities rose 24.9 percent last month from a year earlier, compared with a 26.4 percent rise in October, the National Bureau of Statistics reported.

While at a less frantic pace than earlier in the year, policymakers will want more evidence that a slowdown is really taking place and there will be no let-up in government tightening measures for now, analysts said.

"Fixed-asset investment growth is still slowing down but at a moderate pace," Tokyo-based Lehman Brothers economist Rob Subbaraman said.

"It tells me that the tightening policies that are in place are likely to remain in place until investment slows further," he said. "It has not slowed enough yet."

Earlier this week, the government said it expected the overall economy to expand by 9.3 percent this year, up from 9.1 percent in 2003 despite a series of measures to dampen activity.

This means China is still the world's fastest growing major economy and frantic spending on fixed assets will have contributed much to the situation.

In the first 11 months of the year, urban fixed-asset investment rose 28.9 percent, the statistics bureau said in its statement.

Fixed-asset investment figures come on top of a slew of data suggesting that there is still plenty of kick left in Asia's second-largest economy. *AFP*

# Asian central banks launch $2-billion bond fund

TOKYO—Central banks from the Asia-Pacific region yesterday launched a $2-billion fund to invest in local-currency bonds in an attempt to boost still-immature domestic debt markets and keep the region's savings inside Asia.

A group known as EMEAP (Executives' Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks), comprising 11 central banks in the region, said the Asian Bond Fund 2 (ABF2) would invest in the domestic currency bonds of sovereign and quasi-sovereign issuers in eight EMEAP markets excluding Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

The EMEAP members are Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.

"The catalystic role that the ABF2 will play in promoting new products, improving market infrastructure and minimizing regulatory hurdles will help further broaden and deepen the domestic and regional bond markets," EMEAP said.

The framework of the ABF2, as announced in April, has two parts—a Pan-Asian Bond Index Fund that will invest in local currency bonds, and a Fund of Bond Funds, which will have a parent fund investing in a number of country sub-funds that buy local currency bonds.

EMEAP will allocate $1 billion for the Pan-Asian Bond Index Fund, which will be domiciled in Singapore and initially listed in Hong Kong, and $1 billion for the Fund of Bond Funds.

Bank of Japan (BOJ) officials said EMEAP was in the final stage of selecting private fund managers and custodians for the ABF2 and they hoped the fund would start operating as soon as possible, probably early next year.

Only EMEAP central banks will be able to invest in the ABF2 in the first phase, but private-sector institutions will be invited to invest in the fund in the second phase, which the BOJ officials said would probably start sometime next year. *Reuters*

# In Japan, impact of tax rise seen to be limited

TOKYO—Rising taxes and higher welfare costs next year will dampen Japan's already slowing economy, though the near-term impact will likely be limited, economists said on Thursday.

Japan is set to increase the tax burden, mainly on individuals, next year to help restore tattered state finances and pave the way for revamping tax and fiscal systems to deal with a rapidly ageing population.

The ruling coalition, in an annual report on tax code changes on Wednesday, proposed phasing out income tax breaks on individuals, worth some 3.3 trillion yen ($31.65 billion) annually, from the year starting in April.

Mitsubishi Research Institute, a private think tank, calculated that the measure would reduce gross domestic product (GDP) by 0.03 percentage point in fiscal 2005-06 and by 0.2 point in the following year.

"I won't say there won't be an impact, but it will not be that large," said Yasuo Goto, an economist at the think tank. "People are aware that fiscal consolidation is necessary, and we expect that it can somehow be absorbed by incomes."

Others agreed, saying rising incomes would offset the tax increase.

"Further expansion in consumption and in the economy will continue," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital in Tokyo.

Yamazaki calculates that households will see an effective tax increase next year of 1.65 trillion yen, or some 0.55 percent of disposable income.

The Japan Research Institute said reducing the tax breaks by half would result in consumer spending shrinking by 1.3 trillion yen.

Others were more pessimistic and said the reversal of the tax breaks could trigger an economic downturn given an already slowing economy and faltering consumer sentiment.

A rise in the consumption tax, seen possible in fiscal 2007-08, could compound the issue.

"There's a sense that the public's burden is growing but not the benefits, so the negative impact (of reversing the tax breaks) is strong, especially at this juncture," said Satoshi Shinohara, an economist at NLI Research Institute.

Revised data shows Japan's economy grew just 0.1 percent in July-September, when private-sector consumption rose 0.2 percent versus an earlier estimate of a 0.9 percent gain.

Personal consumption accounts for over half of GDP.

A government survey last week showed sentiment among service sector workers at its lowest level since July 2003, raising concerns about the outlook for personal consumption.

Barclays' Yamazaki said if the economy stalls again without a further improvement in wages, consumer sentiment could worsen sharply and possibly trigger an economic downturn.

The ruling coalition said in its report that it would take economic conditions into account when implementing an end to the income tax breaks, expected in fiscal 2006-07. *Reuters*

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# The ad that made you buy that milk may not be true

ILLUSTRATION BY L.A. MISTADES

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PARENTS would do anything for their children. That is a fact that, unfortunately, many companies are taking advantage of just to push a sale.

The signs are all over media, from print advertisements and television commercials, according to noted pediatrician Arturo C. Ludan, a consultant of Mead-Johnson.

There are milk products promising to increase intelligence; vitamins that claim to make babies taller and stronger in just a few months; and other kinds of medicine that are portrayed as memory enhancers and total protection against infections.

Ludan said in an interview that there is no basis for these "exaggerated" claims, and the ads are a mere marketing ploy to get a parent to patronize a particular product.

## Misleading claims

Ludan said in his letter to Bureau of Food and Drugs director Leticia Barbara Gutierrez that the nutritional products being advertised via tri-media as having therapeutic claims are "patently misleading to the public."

"These therapeutic claims are, in fact, without any scientific basis as there are no solid clinical studies to support such claims," Ludan said in his Nov. 22 letter.

Among these questioned products are vitamins that claim to increase height. The companies selling these products say that "height is might" and harp on their vitamins having the Chlorella Growth Factor.

Ludan said in his letter that there was only one study made on CGF, and it was done more than 40 years ago under a non-scientific method.

He added that if there was any positive effect, it was based on a daily dose of 2,000 mg of CGF. Vitamins in the market, however, contain only 50-100 mg/tsp.

"Therefore, CGF, which is advertised as a growth-promoting nutrient, has no scientific basis for such a claim, particularly at the dosage recommended," he said.

Ludan also cited one pharmaceutical company's ad that showed a young girl who was supposed to have grown by two inches in just two months.

"That claim is exaggerated because children grow by an average of 0.2-0.3 inch per month. To grow

by one inch a month is an astronomical growth," Ludan said.

Still on the height hype, another product was advertised as having promoted growth because it had the so-called ACE growth factor.

The ad showed tall basketball players and tall kids doing dunk shots because they took the vitamins with the ACE growth factor.

Ludan, however, said that the ACE growth factor was non-existent and that the vitamins A,C, E have more to do with the immune system, rather than height promotion.

"Thus, the ad should be withdrawn as a height-enhancing vitamin as it is grossly misleading and deceptive," he said in the letter.

## Vitamin C claims

Ludan also questioned the claim by pharmaceutical companies that Vitamin C offers 100 percent protection from infections or the common cold.

He cited findings of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which said that high dose Vitamin C does not reduce the incidence of the common cold, but it may slightly reduce the duration of the infection.

A cold that usually runs for seven days, for instance, will be gone in five days due to the Vitamin C.

He added that mega doses of Vitamin C that shortened the duration of the common cold amounted to 1,000 to 5,000 mg.

Vitamin C drops, on the other hand, only contain 100 mg.

Ludan, however, stressed that products with "questionable" claims are not bad for the health, but neither do they perform as advertised.

Ludan said there are other nutritional products in the market that make false claims, and the BFAD had acted on previous complaints.

He cited the case of a milk formula sold five years ago that claimed to increase IQ and enhance memory.

"We questioned that before the BFAD and the ad was later amended," he said.

## Need for vigilance

He called on consumers to be more vigilant and do their own research before falling for these false claims.

One way of checking, he said, is for the consumers to check the can or the medical literature that comes with the product for the scientific bases of these claims.

"Billions of pesos are being wasted by the consumers who are easily swayed by such doubtful and unfounded therapeutic claims of these nutritional products as advertised in tri-media. There ought to be a law against this practice," he said.

"Therefore, BFAD should investigate these doubtful therapeutic claims to protect the public and to uphold the dictum of Truth in Advertising," he added.

The burden of protecting the public falls on the BFAD as advertisements of pharmaceutical companies go to its office for approval before these are put out.

Ludan, however, said that the BFAD lacks personnel to monitor all advertisements that go to its office for review.

The public, thus, should do its part and be skeptical of the health benefits advertised on print and broadcast.

Chances are, if the claims are too good to be true, they are.

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GMA Network chair, president and CEO Felipe L. Gozon (left) receives the Centennial Taxpayer Award from BIR Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno Jr. (right) during the flag ceremony held recently at the BIR National Office Complex in Quezon City.

# GMA Network listed top media taxpayer by BIR

LEADING media company GMA Network Inc. is the top media taxpayer as it ranked second overall in the top 20 taxpayers and centennial awardees of the recently concluded Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) Centennial Taxpayer Recognition Program (CTRP).

GMA was cited by the BIR under the CTRP "as top taxpayer, by increasing its tax payments for the period of the evaluation corresponding prior periods required under RMO 7-2004, in manifestation of its patriotic commitment to help our country carry on its march to progress and development."

The CTRP is one of the main tax campaign measures the BIR has implemented this year in support of its revenue program. Over P843 million in voluntary payments were received from qualified taxpayers, many of whom even made additional voluntary contributions on top of what they have to pay under the law.

GMA Network chair, president and CEO Felipe L. Gozon said that the network is responding to the government's call to intensify tax collection measures amidst the current fiscal crisis being experienced by the country through leading by example. "We are committed to be responsible not only through our programming but also to our obligations as a corporate citizen," Gozon said.

GMA Network was also named the 2003 Top Realty Taxpayer of Quezon City and received the honor from Quezon City Mayor Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr. during the QC Top Taxpayers Awards Night held recently.

# Firms see market for flavored water

ATLANTA—Since the 1990s, bottled water has become a fixture in American health clubs, offices and sports stadiums, emerging as one of the most popular and fast-growing drinks on the market.

Now, Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo Inc. and Nestle are betting that flavored water will find a sweet spot among US consumers who find the plain variety a bit boring.

Lemon and raspberry versions of Coke's Dasani water brand will begin arriving in US stores in the first quarter of 2005, according to officials with the world's largest soft drinks maker.

"This would appeal to people who don't want to drink the same water all the time," said Ray Crockett, a spokesperson for Coke's Dasani brand. "We have research that indicates consumers like flavored waters." PepsiCo, Coca-Cola's main rival, also has announced that it will launch a new Aquafina water drink called FlavorSplash next year. The product will come in raspberry, wild berry and citrus flavors.

Swiss-based food giant Nestle, which already markets Perrier, Poland Spring and other water brands in North America, is joining the fray with lemon, orange, strawberry and raspberry flavored Nestle Pure Life Splash.

The companies' new waters contain no calories.

At stake is control of a small but fast-growing sub-segment of the $11-billion US bottled water market.

Flavored waters, or enhanced waters as they are often called, account for about 4 percent of US water sales measured by volume and about 10 percent measured in dollars.

Their growth rate eclipses that of the overall water category.

Sales of Gatorade's Propel Fitness Water, the market leader in enhanced waters, grew 48.7 percent in the first nine months of 2004, according to Beverage Digest, an industry newsletter.

Gatorade is a unit of Purchase, New York-based PepsiCo.

"That segment is just beginning to emerge, and it's unclear how it will do," said John Sicher, editor of Beverage Digest, which was first to report the companies' plans to market the flavored waters in the United States.

"I would estimate that it will gain some traction next year," Sicher said.

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, for their part, are keen to pick up a larger share of this burgeoning market to help offset slower sales of soft drinks, the traditional foundation of their profits.

They entered the US bottled water market in the 1990s to tap into growing consumer interest in healthier beverages.

PepsiCo's Aquafina now ranks as the top-selling US water brand, while Coca-Cola's Dasani is second.

With massive distribution systems and experience branding new products, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestle could hold an advantage when they launch their flavored waters. The US giants, however, may be haunted by past setbacks.

Vitamin-enhanced versions of Dasani and Aquafina flopped several years ago and were pulled off the market.

Despite the prospect of more companies entering the market, enhanced waters remain an attractive category partly because they tend to sell at a higher price than bottled waters. That is key at a time when water prices are drifting downward.

Atlanta-based Coca-Cola lowered what it charged for Dasani in the fourth quarter of 2004, putting pressure on PepsiCo's Aquafina, according to a research report released this week by Morgan Stanley analyst Bill Pecoriello.

Industry observers have been warning of a pricing downdraft in the water business for several years, which threatens to derail the high-margin business, curb profits and possibly transform a booming niche product into a mere commodity. *Reuters*

# Mobile games get fancier, more social

SAN JOSE, California—Who says "Solitaire" must be a lonely endeavor?

Games tailored for cell phones are increasingly adding community-oriented elements, such as tournaments for top scores, head-to-head combat or chatting with other players.

After all, the ubiquitous gadget is meant to connect people.

"The mobile phone is really turning into a social computer," said Trip Hawkins, founder of Digital Chocolate Inc.

The San Mateo-based startup is one of more than 300 companies developing games for US cell phone users. Its offerings includes "Solitaire," in its so-called mobile league, in which players can post scores and compete for rank and glory.

But such game leaderboards, which are expected to become commonplace next year, are only the tip of the social, mobile iceberg.

Early next year, Los Angeles-based Tomo Software Inc. is expected to launch a mobile game that riffs off reality TV, mimics the addictive elements of "The Sims" and "Tamagotchi" video gaming worlds and employs the social networking grease of the Friendster online community.

A player establishes a personal character—an image of their real selves or an alter ego—within the persistent cyber world of Sora City. The character forms relationships and can compete in game-within-a-game events in which other characters can help decide the winner. Players communicate through online journals, or blog, or by sending each other messages.

In another upcoming Digital Chocolate-developed game, called "Message in a Garden," players keep a virtual garden, adding water when needed while sending pictures of their handiwork or messages to fellow gardeners.

The more interactive the games, the greater the revenue potential for the wireless industry. It should come as no surprise that most carriers now offer about 250 games; Verizon Wireless has about 500. The options range from basic puzzle challenges to role-playing games adapted from game consoles or the PC.

Of course you can't play these games on just any phone, multimedia capabilities are de rigeur for many.

Mobile gaming skyrocketed in the past 18 months as handsets with color screens and better multimedia features became more affordable. Those once-fancy phones are now standard and will be the replacements for millions of wireless subscribers next year, expanding the number of potential gamers.

And phones are getting even more powerful. Arriving next year are phones with built-in three-dimensional capabilities to handle games more in line with the realistic-looking graphics found today on console titles. That's a far cry from the simple, cursor-like motion of the original "Snake," the first game built for cell phones in 1997.

Not surprisingly, multiplayer games are one hot phenomenon, and the ability to contact other players via text message an anticipated big draw. *AP*

# The bare minimum (corporate income tax) - II

By Romulo S. Danao
and Michael Dana N. Montero
*SGV & Co.*

TAX-FILES

COST of services or those that were directly and exclusively incurred for the following activities: (1) lending/investment of funds; (2) obtaining of funds from the public through the receipt of deposits; and (3) trading of foreign exchange and other financial instruments should be limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly engaged in any of the said activities;
2. Interest expense except interest charged by or paid to the head office on funds considered/classified as assigned capital of the branch;
3. PDIC premium payments; and
4. BSP supervision fee.

For insurance and pension funding companies, or those that are engaged in life and non-life insurance business and pre-need companies, including health maintenance organizations, gross receipts should refer to the actual or constructive receipts representing: net retained premiums (gross premiums net of returns, cancellations, and premiums ceded)/gross premium or collection from planholders; HMO membership fees; miscellaneous income; investment income not subject to final tax; released reserve and, all other items treated as gross income under Section 32 of the Tax Code.

However, in the case of pre-need companies, gross receipts should also include gross withdrawals from the trust funds set up independently as mandated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

As regards the foregoing taxpayers, costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively in the insurance and pre-need business, including the generation of investment income that is not subject to final taxes, but limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly engaged in said activities;
2. Commissions on direct writings/agents of pre-need companies;
3. Claims, losses, maturities and benefits net of reinsurance recoveries; and
4. Net additions required by law to reserve fund (for insurance companies) and contributions to the trust funds to be set up independently as mandated by the SEC (for pre-need companies).

With respect to finance companies and other financial intermediaries not performing quasi-banking activities or those that are engaged in the business of extending credit facilities to consumers and to industrial, commercial, or agricultural enterprises, including lending investors, gross receipts shall mean actual or constructive receipts representing interests, discounts, and all other items treated as gross income under Section 32 of Tax Code that are not subject to final withholding income tax.

Their cost of services shall refer to those incurred directly and exclusively in their lending, financing and generating of investment income not subject to final taxes, and should be limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly performing such functions; and,
2. Interest expense.

As for brokers of securities, excluding banks, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts for effecting transactions in securities for the account of others.

Their costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for such activity, and shall be limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly engaged in said activities;
2. Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) terminal fees;
3. Communication charges related to trading/sales of securities;
4. Research fees such as access to Bloomberg and Reuters stock data;
5. Commissions paid to its agents who are not employees of the brokerage firm; and
6. Settlement/processing costs of trades, more commonly known as "exchange dues."

For customs, insurance, real estate, immigration and commercial brokers, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts in the form of brokerage fees, commissions and remuneration as such broker.

Their costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for brokering activities, and should be limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly engaged in brokering activities; and
2. Commissions paid to its agents who are not employees of the brokerage firm.

Under RMC 04-03, general engineering and/or building contractors are those engaged in contracting business for fixed works requiring specialized engineering knowledge and skill (e.g. reclamation works, railroads, highways, streets roads, tunnels, airports), or with any structure built, for the support, shelter and enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, or movable property of any kind, requiring the use of more than two unrelated building trades or crafts in its construction, or to do or superintend the whole or any part thereto (e.g. sewers and sewerage, disposal plants and systems, parks, playgrounds, refineries).

In the case of such taxpayers, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts representing the contract price, including the amount charged for materials supplied with the services.

On the other hand, their costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for such activities, and will be limited to the following:

1. Cost of materials used in construction;
2. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of site laborers and supervisors;
3. Health insurance, workers compensation and general liability insurance of site laborers and supervisors;
4. Fees and costs paid to subcontractors;
5. Costs of performance bonds required by the contract;
6. Depreciation/amortization, rentals, repairs and maintenance of equipment directly used in the said activities;
7. Costs of moving equipment and materials to and from the contract site;
8. Costs of design and technical assistance; and
9. Supplies and tools directly used in the said activities.

In the case of common carriers or transportation contractors, gross receipts refer to actual or constructive receipts utilized for engaging in the business of carrying or transporting passengers or goods or both, by land, water, or air, for compensation, offering their services to the public, including transportation contracting.

While their costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for such activities, these shall be limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly engaged in the operation of the transportation equipment;
2. Toll fees (representing rental for the use of road);
3. Parking fees (for aircraft, sea craft and motor vehicles);
4. Franchise fees (representing rental for the use of road network);
5. Depreciation/amortization, rentals, repairs and maintenance of transportation equipment, and properties, building and improvements exclusively used as parking for aircraft, sea craft or motor vehicles;
6. Fuel and lubricants of motor vehicles, aircraft or sea craft directly; used in transporting passengers and/or goods/cargoes;
7. Meals provided to passengers;
8. Cost of safety paraphernalia and other supplies for use by passengers (e.g. life jacket, mask, etc.); and
9. Annual transportation equipment registration fee.

For hotel, motel, rest/pension/lodging house and resort operators, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts derived from the operation of such hotel, motel, rest/pension/lodging house, resort and other similar places.

As for their costs of services, the same shall refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for providing rooms and other related facilities for the enjoyment of customers, but shall be limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of housekeeping staff, concierge personnel and other hotel/house/resort attendants;
2. Depreciation/amortization, rentals, repairs and maintenance of building, properties and facilities, and equipment directly used in the said activities;
3. Commissions paid to travel agents for bookings of guests for such establishments;
4. In case the operator also serves food and beverage, expenses allowed for food service establishments shall be included in its direct costs; and
5. Supplies (e.g. hotel room/housekeeping, kitchen and laundry).

Similarly, for those taxpayers in the food service establishments, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts derived from the operation of such restaurant, bars, cafes, clubs, caterers, other eating/drinking-places, as well as take-out counters.

Their costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively in the preparation and serving/selling of foods and drinks and other requirements of the customers, and will be limited to the following:

1. Cost of raw/cooked foods and drinks prepared and served/sold;
2. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly engaged in the said activities;
3. Depreciation/amortization, rentals, repairs and maintenance of properties, buildings, furniture and fixtures, and equipment directly used in the performance of said activities;
4. Cost of cooking oil, condiments and other ingredients used in cooking the food; and
5. Royalties paid by franchisee.

For those engaged in the business of leasing out properties, such as real properties, equipment, and other movable properties, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts derived from the lease of properties.

On the other hand, costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for the property leased, and will be limited to the depreciation/amortization, rentals, real property taxes/charges, and repairs and maintenance, of the leased properties, as well as salaries of employees and fees of contractors hired to provide maintenance (repairs, cleaning/maintenance of leased properties) and collection services.

For utility companies such as telephone and telegraph, electric, gas, and water utilities, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts derived from the operation of such systems/utilities covered by the law granting the franchise.

While costs of services refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for the production and delivery of such systems/utilities, these are limited to the following:

1. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of personnel directly engaged in the said activities;
2. Depreciation/amortization, rentals, repairs and maintenance of properties and equipment directly used in the said activities;
3. Interconnection fee and/or share of foreign telecommunications administration (FA) for the services they perform;
4. Fuel and lubricants on vehicles or equipment directly utilized in the said activities;
5. Amortization of franchise or development fees;
6. Franchise fees; and
7. Royalties.

As far as those engaged in radio and television broadcasting are concerned, gross receipts mean actual or constructive receipts derived from the operation of such radio/television broadcasting covered by the law granting the franchise.

Their costs of services shall refer to those incurred directly and exclusively for such production and broadcasting, but shall be limited to the following:

1. Talent fees of those hired for production/broadcasting;
2. Salaries, wages and other employee benefits of production and broadcasting personnel;
3. Tapes and other production materials and supplies;
4. Satellite charges and wire services;
5. Film rights royalties and dubbing expenses;
6. Set requirements;
7. Rentals for production equipment and facilities;
8. Rentals for locations used exclusively for production/broadcasting;
9. Costumes, props and prizes; and
10. Depreciation on production and broadcasting equipment.

As used in RMC 04-03, the term "salaries, wages and other employee benefits" shall include the following employee benefits: bonuses, Pag-Ibig, SSS, Medicare, and HDMF contributions.

With the passage of RMC 04-03, it is hoped that taxpayers will have an easier time ascertaining their correct MCIT due. Ultimately, it is hoped that this issuance will leave the government and the taxpayers a lot less reason to dispute the latter's actual tax liabilities ... at least on this issue of the MCIT.

# Getting a slice of success

ENTREPRENEURS can now have a slice of the success of Cravings—the chain of restaurant cum dessert place via franchising.

The latest to get a franchise is Johnson Ng, a young Filipino-Chinese businessman who has been a Cravings' aficionado since his early teens.

He was granted a franchise license by the Cravings Group of Companies and is set to open his shop at the Cravings West Avenue, located at the Fortune Promenade Building next month.

With a strategic location near SM City North, the new Cravings franchise is envisioned to be as successful as the other branches, said Aries Galano, franchise manager of Cravings.

"We do profiling on potential owners and check their business aptitude and references. We require them to implement hands-on management, because Cravings has an image for consistent ownership presence in stores," said Galano.

For his part, Ng confesses to being an avid patron of Cravings since his high school days at La Salle Greenhills. During the construction of the Fortune Promenade building, he asked experts what type of establishment would best occupy the commercial structure. His consultant said it should be a restaurant and coffeeshop.

"Only one restaurant came to mind, and that's Cravings which has its own coffeeshop, The Coffee Beanery. My barkada used to hang out at Cravings Katipunan during our high school days, and now, the ambiance is still homey, and the food is still very delectable. I still prefer their coffee over other specialty café's that are popular only because of their name, and not their product line," said Ng.

The Fortune Promenade Building is a four-level structure with an all-glass, cone-shaped facade. The first and second levels will contain Cravings and The Coffee Beanery while the third floor will be used for offices.

Cravings West Avenue branch sits 150 persons w/ al fresco dining, has ample parking space, and is an ideal venue for functions like corporate meetings and social gatherings.

Galano meanwhile added that they plan to open more Cravings franchise outlets next year.

"The site location is very important to us, because we have to consider the neighborhood area if it's surrounded by a village or a metropolitan district. We are looking forward to this expansion plan to establish Cravings as a leading restaurant known for quality food and professional service."

For inquiries about the franchising package, please call 426-6681 local 104/118 or 426- 4838. Cravings outlets are located at Katipunan Avenue, Tomas Morato, Shangri-la EDSA Plaza Mall, Robinson's Galleria, Metrowalk, Ortigas; Robinson's Place Ermita, Fraser Place Serviced Residence, and Festival Mall.

# 'Money can be made where there are inefficiencies'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

BUSINESSMEN get frustrated with inefficiencies and infrastructure deficiencies. Yet these are precisely the ingredients that can create opportunities.

"The Philippines is where the most money can be made because of the inefficiencies of information and delivery of services. Where there are efficiencies, money can be made," said Martin Lorenzo, chair and president of Pancake House Inc. and Del Monte Pacific vice chair.

Lorenzo spoke during the recent Management Association of the Philippines Conference. He has the unique position of running two firms—one a conglomerate with thousands of employees and one medium-scale food business.

"If you compare these businesses to boats, Del Monte is a big ocean liner that is slow to move; Pancake is a speed boat that responds quickly to change."

Lorenzo's family, via its Lapanday Holdings, acquired the Pancake House in 2000.

LORENZO: Always live life with a sense of urgency JOSEPH AGCAOILI

## No food knowledge

"I knew nothing about the food business. I only loved eating pancakes," he recalled.

The honeymoon of the acquisition lasted one day. He realized soon enough it was a tired brand with old stores, half of which were in bad locations. The staff needed training and the quality of food had deteriorated.

"I began to panic," Lorenzo said.

He quickly turned to business books to look for a turnaround strategy.

"We were almost running out of money. Our choice was to list in three years or in three months."

## Revitalizing the brand

He used what money they had to revitalize the brand. They put up a new commissary, updated the store design and concept. They closed bad locations and opened new ones.

"We built stores in comfort zones. We wanted to be the third place people go to . And by accident 25 to 30 of our stores were beside Starbucks Coffee. We told the waiters it was okay for the customers to bring Starbucks coffee in."

Now, everytime, a new Starbucks opens, Pancake House immediately gets an invitation to locate in the same area.

The new management changed the menu while maintaining its bestsellers.

"It used to be known as a breakfast place but now 60 percent of the diners come for lunch or dinner," said Lorenzo.

## Not just breakfast

The staff was trained and retrained with the program focusing on delighting the customers. Twelve months after the Lorenzo family acquired Pancake House, some of its shares were offered to the public.

"After 12 months, we saw the fruits. Sales grew four times in four years. The cash flow has improved and is on a recurring basis from co-owned stores, franchise fees and the commissaries. We now have longer franchise applicants than locations," summarized Lorenzo.

Last year was the first year Pancake House Inc. declared dividends. Because of its success, Lorenzo said they acquired another food chain—Dencio's.

## Learnings

After four short years in the restaurant business, he summarized his business learnings:

1. Have a vision for the company. "Never, never shoot from the hip. Have a plan to achieve the vision. Have a three-year plan but build each year into the plan. Plan year one will not end with year three. Make sure you have resources to achieve the plans. The balance sheet should be strong. Don't borrow too much. Have a good management team."

2. The best time to go to banks is when you don't need the money. "Banks will always, always lend those who do not need money. Put in more equity."

3. Surround yourself with the right people. "The right management will depend on what stage your company is in. Motivate your managers. Make them work for the company on a performance basis. If they perform well, pay well."

4. Be flexible and proactive. "Good people react to change well. Great people make change happen."

5. Always understand the value chain—where the most money is made. "Most money is made if you're closest to customers. Buy brands first before anything else."

6. Make sure you continue making money. Make sure you have a recurring cash flow. You have to make money if you're in business.

7. The only way to delight is to continue to delight.

For personal learnings, Lorenzo has two: Choose partners well before you even think of getting them. Always live life with a sense of urgency.

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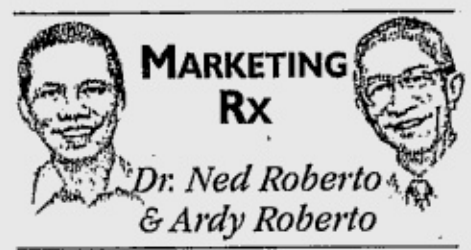
BUSINESS Friday

# Will your retail trade sales promos work?




**Q: To help boost sales, our marketing department always comes up with sales promotions. One promo is targeted at the trade and the other at our consumers. Usually we'll come up with different ideas but more often than not, we all go back to the favorite "Free t-shirt", or "price-off" or "buy-one-take-one" promo type of thing. Sometimes the decisions are by default because we can't or don't know how to decide on what promo to do. Can you help us?**

A: Many of today's successful marketers use market research to support their sales promotion decisions to avoid the trap of getting into mindless sales promos.

Having said that, among the marketing mix elements requiring research support, sales promotion decision is the most difficult to help. The first difficulty comes from the many forms and combination that sales promotion takes. Author William Robinson traced the multiple forms as derivatives of "12 basic sales promotion techniques." But even with just 12 forms, he says "these 12 can be combined 845,059,745 different ways." The situation has led Magid Abraham and Leonard Lodish to say in their classic Harvard Business Review article "Getting the Most Out of Advertising and Promotion," that belief in sales promotion's effectiveness "has largely been a matter of faith."

## Will this promo work?

We feel for you because, in addition, the situation is made even more difficult because of poor sales promotion decision-making practice. You seem to be in that situation. The sales promotion decision process is often started at the end rather than at the beginning. A particular sales promotion technique, say product sampling, is picked. Then the marketing executive asks: "Will this promo work?" The selection of the promo technique or combination of techniques should have come after an analysis of the target consumer behavior, not before.

Let's suppose that a company has a Usage, Attitude, Image or UAI market research. Let's suppose that the UAI shows that consumers are not behaving as you desire. Suppose further that the analysis suggests that what can change their behavior in the right direction is a product sampling promo or a combination led by sampling. Then and only then should the sales promotion selection take place, namely, at the end rather than at the start of the decision process.

Once sales promotion is in place, the marketing executive's concern shifts to whether it is working or not, i.e., its post-launch effectiveness. This post-decision research question evaluates the sales promotion decision but doesn't have research to support that decision. It is a mistake to confuse the two when talking about sales promotion research. Each has its own use and requires its own research support.

There are basically two aspects of sales promotion that demands research support. The first of these research supports seeks to determine the suitable sales promotion tool or tools for changing a needed consumer usage or buying behavior. For simplicity, we refer to this as "sales promotion decision research."

The second research evaluates how effective an implemented sales promotion is and finds out why it is effective or ineffective. We refer to this as "sales promotion evaluation research." (Read Chapter 12 of Dr Ned Roberto's User-Friendly Marketing Research where this column is based if you want to learn more about using research to support promo decisions.)

## How pharmas do trade sales promos

Let's take how the cutthroat pharma industry does its retail trade sales promos. In the pharmaceutical industry of the Philippines, it is a practice to distinguish the sales of a medical preparation as coming from three sources. The first of these is the doctors' prescriptions. Called the ethical prescription sales, these sales are directly traceable to the doctors' prescriptions of the brand. The second source is "the ethical OTC (over-the-counter) sales."

These are purchases that users of the medical preparation make based on a previous prescription or some evidence of previous use or just on the users' own decision. These are different from a third source carrying also the "OTC" term, "the proprietary OTC sales." Such sales are for a medical preparation that has been classified as an "advertised product" in contrast to being an "ethical product."

The difference between a proprietary OTC and an ethical OTC sale is the presence of mass media advertising support in the former and its absence in the latter.

Consider an ethical medical preparation brand (as against an advertised brand) whose ethical prescription sales ratio is much less than its ethical OTC sales ratio. The industry refers to this case as one where the Rx/OTC ratio is dominated by the OTC proportion.

When encountering this kind of ethical brands, one thing becomes clear—the larger the OTC percent over the Rx percent, the more the contribution of ethical OTC sales is to total revenue as against prescription sales' contribution. In such cases, ethical promotion efforts for prescription sales and for continuing doctors' endorsement remain important. However, the much larger portion of total revenue coming from ethical OTC sales means this revenue contribution needs protecting and active ethical OTC promotion support. Most pharmaceutical marketing executives have experienced how their competitors' ethical OTC promo activities can intercept their brand's sales at point of purchase.

These activities include efforts like providing drugstore incentives, "mystery buyer" campaigns, drugstore PR efforts, and similar drugstore-based ethical OTC promotional activities.

Many pharmaceutical marketing executives still overlook the need of their existing ethical brands for an ethical OTC promotion program. They should be reminded that at any given time, their existing ethical brand's total sales is the sum total of its ethical prescription sales and its ethical OTC sales. To increase total sales, they must do something about increasing both prescription and ethical OTC sales.

The appropriate research for knowing and understanding what to do in the ethical OTC promotion is to survey drugstores.

To put it simply, the survey asks the drugstore clerks and operators for the last four or five brands that they last sold for a particular ailment (e.g. what anti-asthma brand did you last sell?). The survey then goes on to ask them to talk about their impressions of the ethical OTC promotions efforts and activities of these anti-asthma brands and asks for which they thought was the best promo tool, etc.

This enables pharma marketing executives to learn what old and new tricks competitor brands have been and are doing in this area. In the present case, it is a "competitive benchmarking survey of drugstores." Its main rationale proceeds from the premise that everything that competitors have done and are doing in ethical OTC promotion takes place in the drugstores. They pass through the experience of and register in the memories of the large drugstore counter clerks and small drugstore owners and operators. A competitive benchmarking study draws the ethical OTC promotion data from those memories.

The research is a personal interview survey of a random representative sample of drugstore counter clerks, owners, or operators. To facilitate sampling of the respondent drugstores, the research can use the "Pareto" population of drugstores for its sampling frame.

The Pareto drugstore population refers to the 20 percent of drugstores in, say Metro Manila, accounting for 80 percent of total sales of all Metro Manila drugstores. Data from the appropriate sample drawn from this sampling frame are true and projectable to 80 percent of the business. (Remember that it helps to partner with your friendly neighborhood market research agency.)

## Focus Group Discussion

Finally, it is important to keep in mind that promotional tools are continually changing and expanding. Like fashion items, they come in and out of the scene. When a once "trendy" promo tool goes out of fashion and leaves the scene, it is likely that two or three newly concocted tools will quickly take its place. This only means that the benchmarking study must be on top of the changes.

How do benchmarking pharmaceutical marketing executives get to know all these? How do they determine which ethical OTC promo tools were used during the period being benchmarked? How do they distinguish in the questionnaire checklist of promo tools those that ended within the benchmarked period from those that went on to a succeeding period? How do they keep current on the changes taking place about the "old" promo tools and the "new" ones?

This is a job for a quick FGD (Focus Group Discussion) study undertaken before the competitive benchmarking survey. For those working on a tight research budget, two groups of drugstore counter clerks, operators, or owners should suffice to serve the purpose.

The objective is to generate a comprehensive list of the pertinent ethical OTC promotion tools used by different competing brands during the promo period being benchmarked. It is this generated checklist of pertinent ethical OTC promotion tools that then gets into the competitive benchmarking study questionnaire.

How frequent should the monitoring FGD study be carried out? The answer depends on the study's timing. If it follows a semestral schedule, then a semestral FGD study schedule can be carried out before each semester's drugstore benchmarking survey.

*(Feedback at MarketingRx@pldtdsl.net)*

CALAYAG with Wanda Louwallien (left) and Olen Lim, his loyal clients for over two decades

How to make sense of hair products sold in salons, drugstores and supermarkets? Expert Henri Calayag dispenses advice on how to use them

# Do-it-yourself salonlocks

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE DOWNSIDE of even the most expensive haircut is achieving that straight-out-of-the-salon look the day after, and every day thereafter.

That's why many of us, time and again, are duped into buying the products we see our hairstylists rub, slap, scrunch, spritz on our mane, in our vain attempt to duplicate that wow-you-look-great look on our own.

Before we know it, our vanity dressers are crammed with every imaginable tube, bottle and pot of gunk that either don't work, or we don't know *how* to work.

Because we don't know any better, the loot keeps accumulating, one seemingly promising product after another, the frustration building up. Nothing signifies those precious hard-earned pesos wasted better than the gathering dust on those bottles—and your silly-looking hair.

"They all work!," stresses celebrity hairstylist Henri Calayag when asked to name effective hair-product brands. "If you know how to use them they work. And I don't mean only the expensive brands," he adds reassuringly.

So Lifestyle sought Calayag's expert advice on how to properly use some products available in salons, drugstores and supermarkets.

## Seek help

Calayag's sage advice is to seek recommendation from your hairdresser on which products will best suit your hair type, hairstyle and your hair and scalp's condition.

A good hairdresser, he says, will demonstrate how to apply a product and even guide you to try it for yourself to see if you can do it on your own.

"You should be able to do it on your own," he insists.

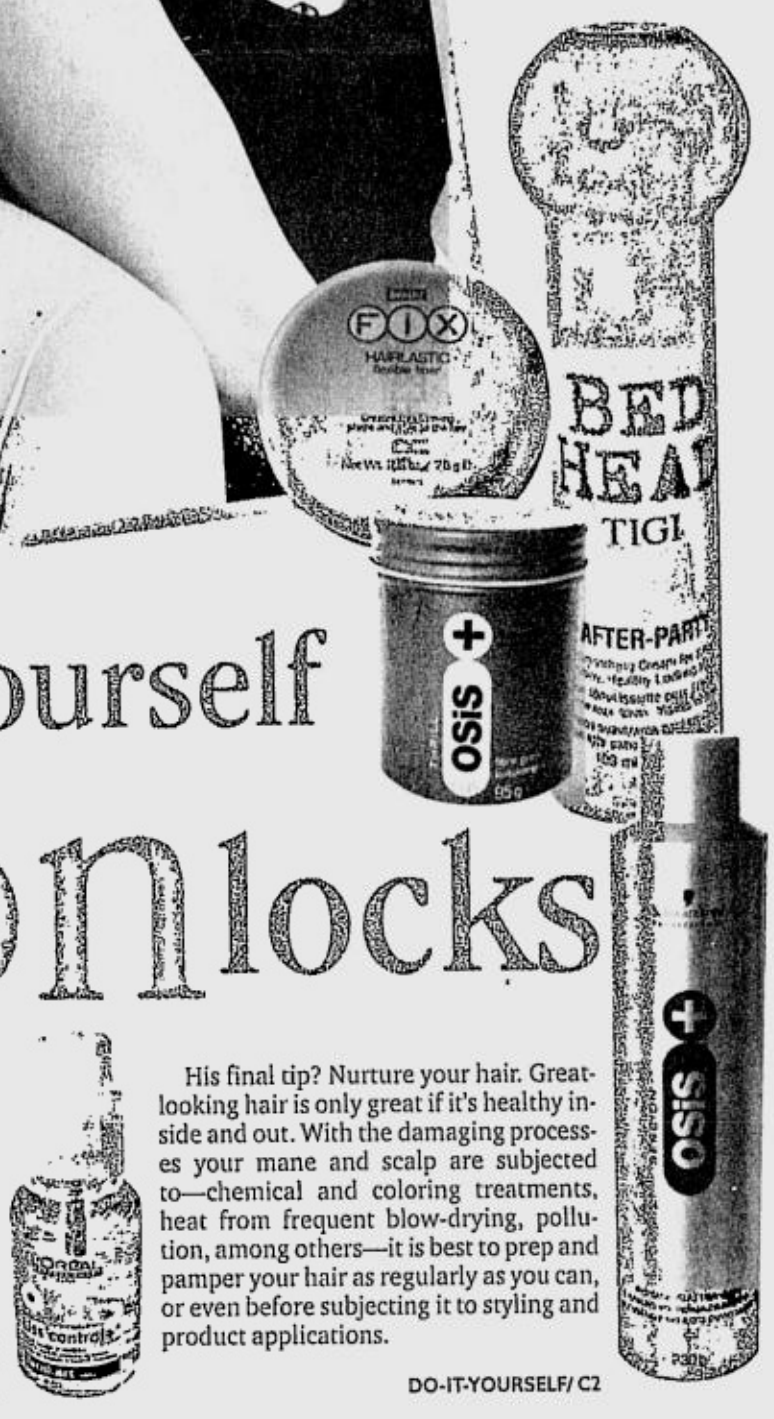
As hairstylists will usually suggest products they use in the salon, professional or salon-exclusive, which typically cost more, the H Salon owner and creative director (2/F Rustan's Makati, tel. 8176149/50) recommends asking for cheaper alternatives bought in drugstores and supermarkets if price is an issue.

Of course, he admits, the salon formulas are guaranteed effective as they have been tested and used by the pros.

"You have to know the product," he says. "Go around and check out the testers. Don't buy right away."

He says to apply some product tester on your hair, and wait for a couple of hours to see how the product would hold. "Some preparations may be too oily or heavy so it's best to wait for it to settle."

"Don't be afraid to mix old and new products," he adds, as some hairstyles may require "layering" products to achieve the desired look.



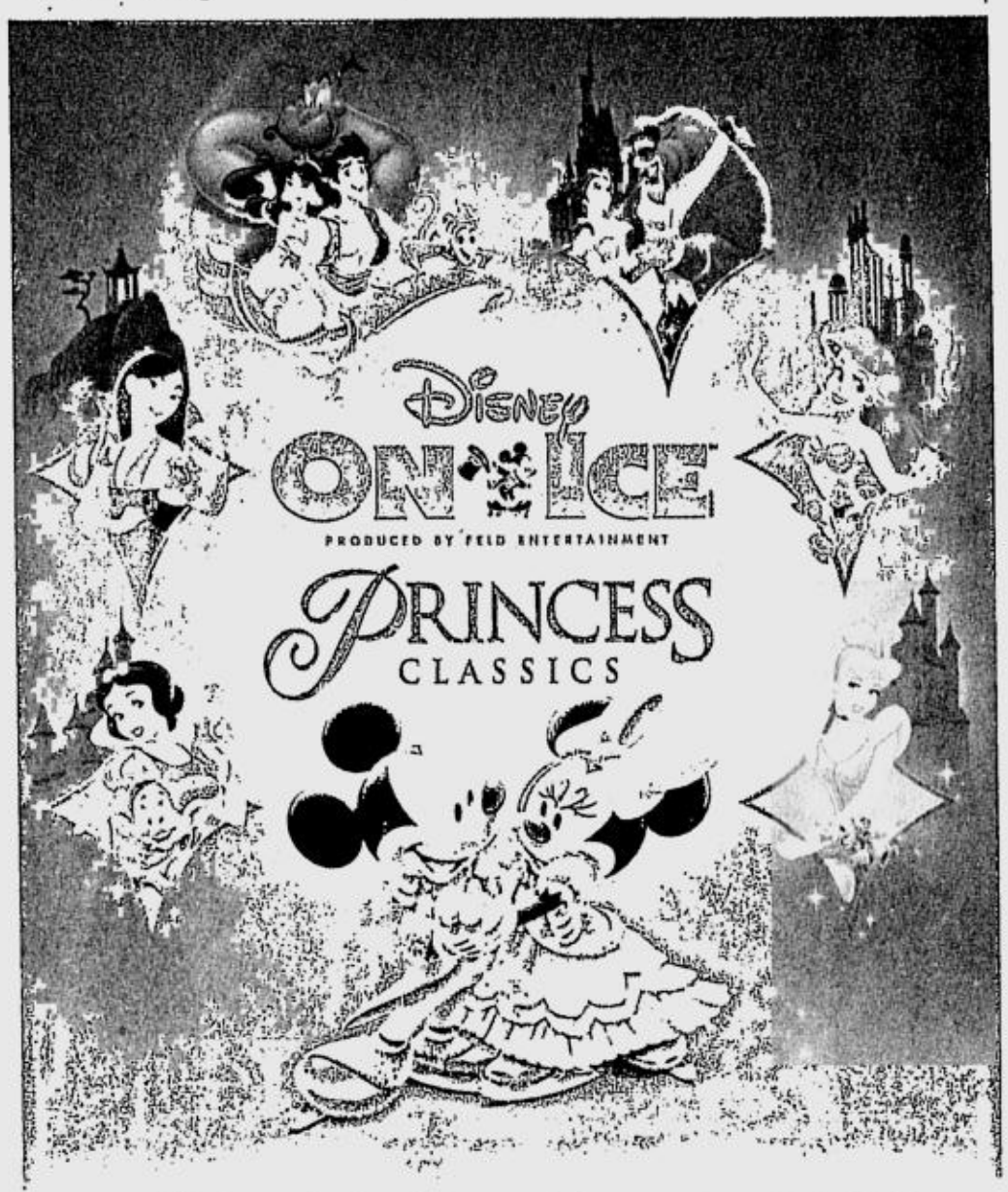




His final tip? Nurture your hair. Great-looking hair is only great if it's healthy inside and out. With the damaging processes your mane and scalp are subjected to—chemical and coloring treatments, heat from frequent blow-drying, pollution, among others—it is best to prep and pamper your hair as regularly as you can, or even before subjecting it to styling and product applications.

DO-IT-YOURSELF/ C2

AIG Credit Cards

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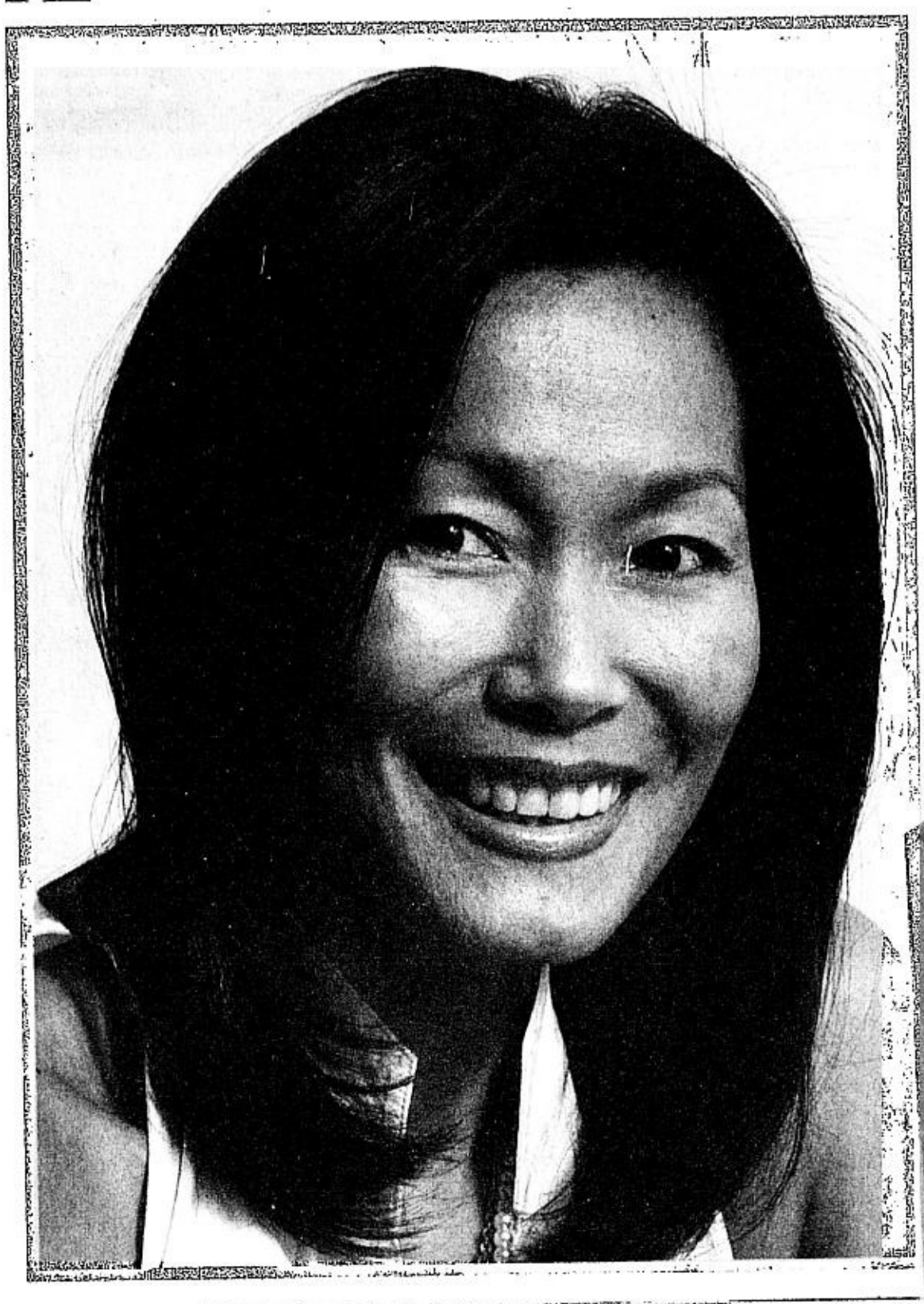
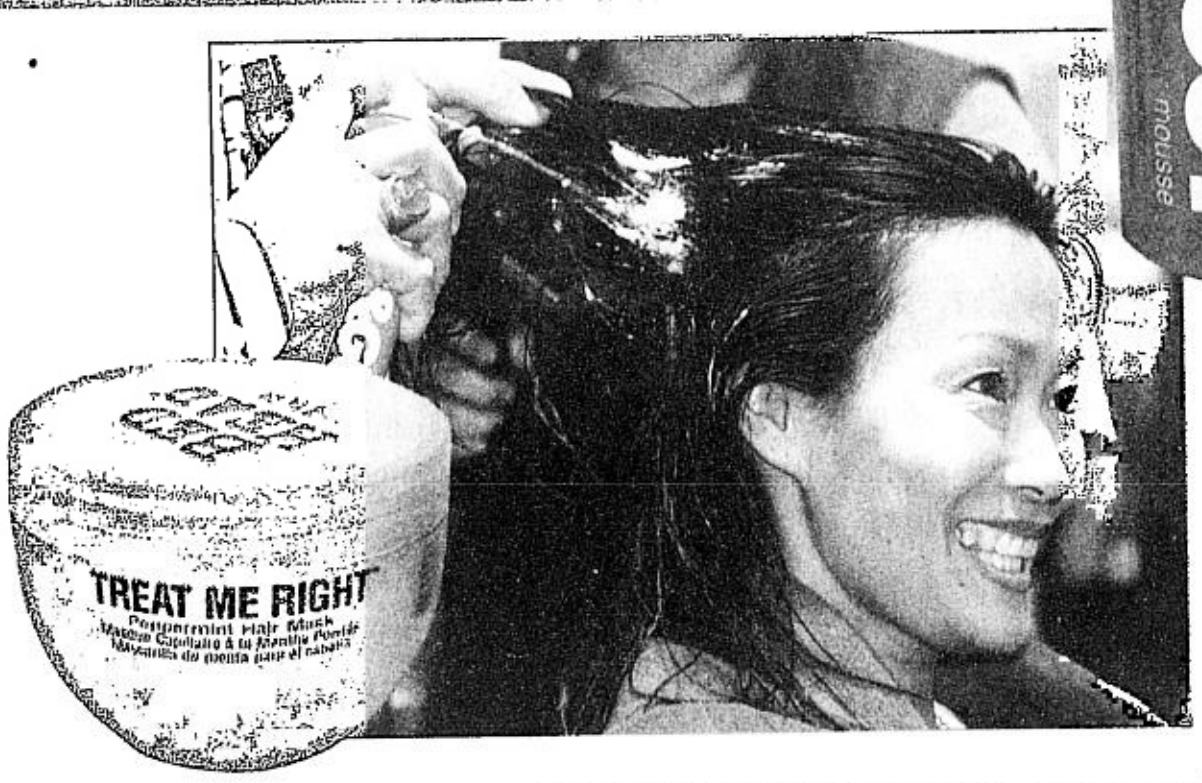


## RUBY GAN

*Owner of X:odus shoe boutique*

Ruby's hair is prepped with the Bed Head Treat Me Right Peppermint Hair Mask. She has typical Chinese hair that tends to be heavy, according to Calayag, and requires volume. For this he sprays on Toni & Guy Boost-It Mousse for dry and colored hair, and combs it through her tresses with his fingers, from crown to tips. The hair is blow-dried to style before an application of Bed Head After Party. This product is usually for smoothing hair and controlling fly-aways. Calayag's suggested alternatives are Wella High Hair Pure Crystal Lotion and Davines Shine Gloss. As a final touch, he molds the crown of Ruby's mane with a delicate sweep of L'Oreal Ahead Zapp Stick. The section framing her face also gets a sweep of the stick from root to tip. A less expensive alternative is Bench Fix Styling Stick. These styling sticks are also great on very short hair (rub on hair in circular motion then style as desired).




Do-it-yourself

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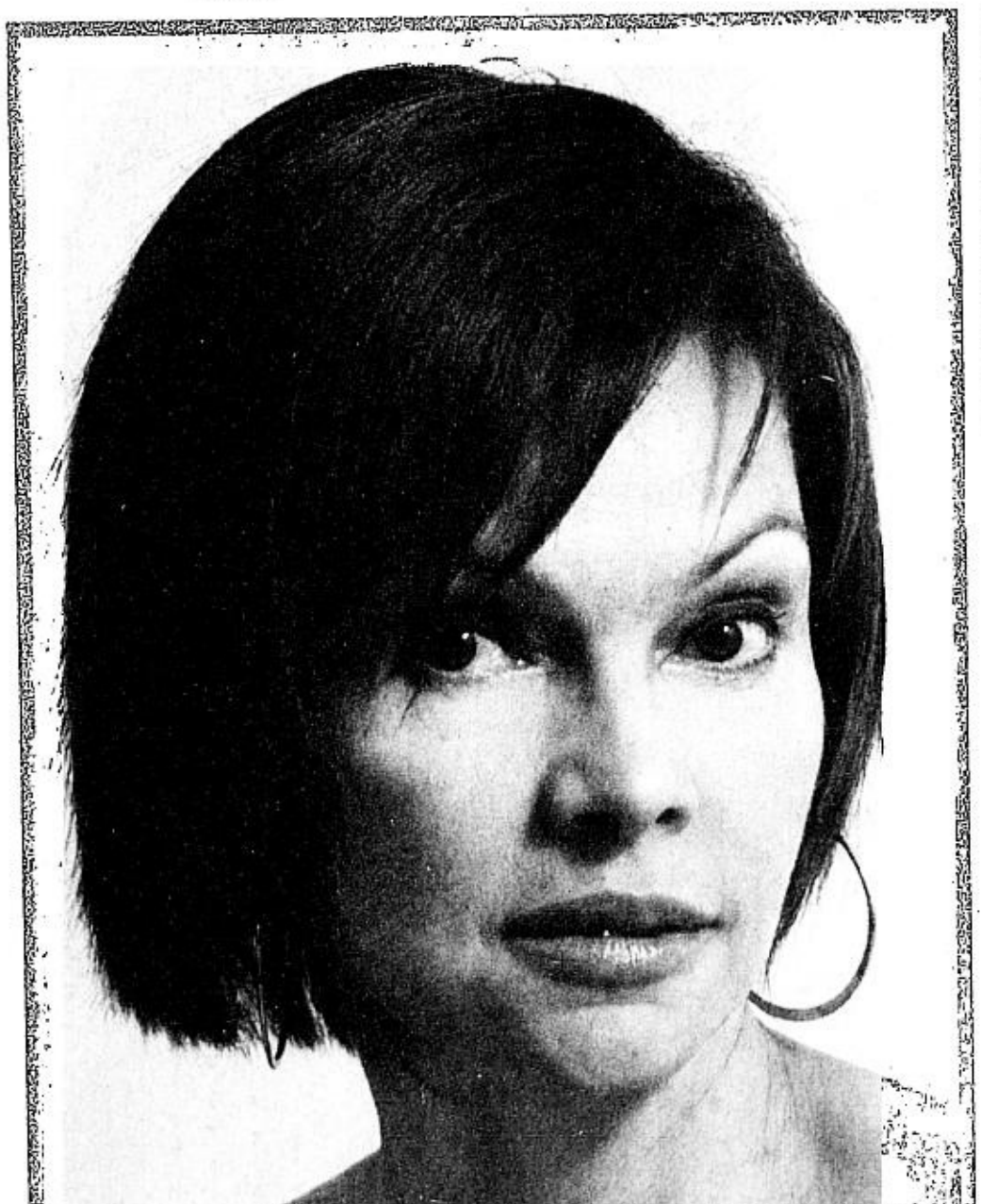

## WANDA LOUWALLIEN

*Former model and Fila consultant*

Like the three other women, Wanda's chin-length hair has gotten dry from color treatments. To the rescue is the Bed Head Treat Me Right Peppermint Hair Mask. The hair is blow-dried to style after rinse. The all-around frizz-control cream Osis Scream is massaged through the hair from base to tip. This is a heat-protecting product that's applied before using the flat-iron stick on Wanda's tresses. For shiny hair, he sprays some Davines Defining G. Calayag very gently rubs L'Oreal Ahead Zapp to the wispy bangs and the ends framing Wanda's face.

PRODUCT PHOTOS BY CHECHE MORAL

**TONI ABAD**
*Rustan's executive*

Calayag preps Toni's long and thick color-treated hair with the Bed Head Treat Me Right Peppermint Hair Mask, which is basically a five-minute after-shampoo hair spa you can do in your own home. He applies the soothing mask with a wide "paint brush" (it can also be massaged into your hair like you would your conditioner) and wraps it in plastic cling wrap. After rinsing, L'Oreal Liss Control + Intense Control Smoothing Serum is massaged while hair is damp. A few drops of this oil-like product are emulsified by rubbing the palms together before application. Before blow-drying, Calayag sprays Paul Mitchell Awapuhi Moisture Mist, a hydrating mist for hair and skin, to seal in moisture. The liquid is combed through for even distribution. He blow-dries the hair to the desired style, in this case a soft look that has lots of movement. He smoothes the mane by warming the creamy Bed Head After Party between his palms and combs it through the hair with his fingers. He finishes with a spritz of Davines F Defining System Glam Power Spray. Osis Session Extreme Hold Hairspray or your favorite hairspray brand may also be used.

**OLEN LIM**
*Image consultant and former fashion model*

Olen's normal type medium-length, color-treated hair also gets prepped with the Bed Head Treat Me Right Peppermint Hair Mask. After rinsing, L'Oreal Liss Control Smooth Control Gel Cream is massaged into her hair to tame frizzes. For more moisture, Paul Mitchell Awapuhi Moisture Mist is also sprayed prior to blow-drying. Bed Head After Party is massaged into the styled, blow-dried look from roots to tips. To define the section around Olen's face, Calayag takes a small amount of the pasty Bed Head Manipulator between his fingers, rubs his fingers to activate the product and applies them to the chunky wisps. He repeats the process in Olen's bangs. The coconut-y scented Bed Head Manipulator is also perfect for short, choppy hairstyles. Similar stringy pastes are Osis Thrill Fiber Gum, Davines Carving Paste, Bench Fix Hairlastic Flexible Fiber.

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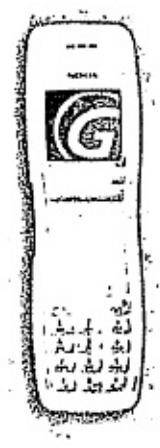

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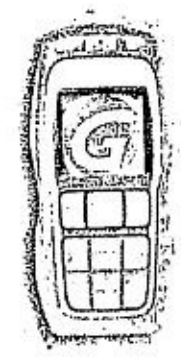

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# Say it with tweeds

TWEEDS make a fashion comeback at SM.

Tweeds—clothes made of coarse wool in yarn-dyed effects—were so-called as they were first hand-loomed in homes along the Tweed River in Scotland.

In the 1890s, British tweed became popular as tailor-made garments for women. Women in the 1920s and 1930s found tweeds suitable for their country, rather than town, wear.

It was the legendary Coco Chanel, however, that elevated tweeds to iconic status in the 1950s and 1960s with her high-fashion tweed suit. This gave women modern and more relaxed clothes.

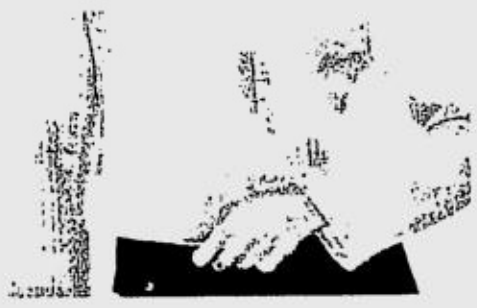
Today's tweeds reflect the new generation's nonchalant elegance. Here are some cool ways to wear tweeds from SM:

- Update a tweed jacket by wearing it with jeans and a camisole. It gives a trendy twist to a vintage look.
- Go for contrasts. A white tweed jacket worn with a black turtleneck, a plaid black jacket worn with a white camisole gives more attention to the detail of the jacket.
- Pastels—pink, blue, mint—give tweeds a fresh and pretty look.
- Accessorize! Have fun with today's tweed accents—pearl necklaces, brooches and ribbons.

The tweed collection is available at the Boutique Square Department of all SM Stores.

**TWEEDS** with a twist. Hot fuchsia tweed jacket with fringes and bow accents atop a white beaded knitted shirt. Worn with denim jeans for a younger look

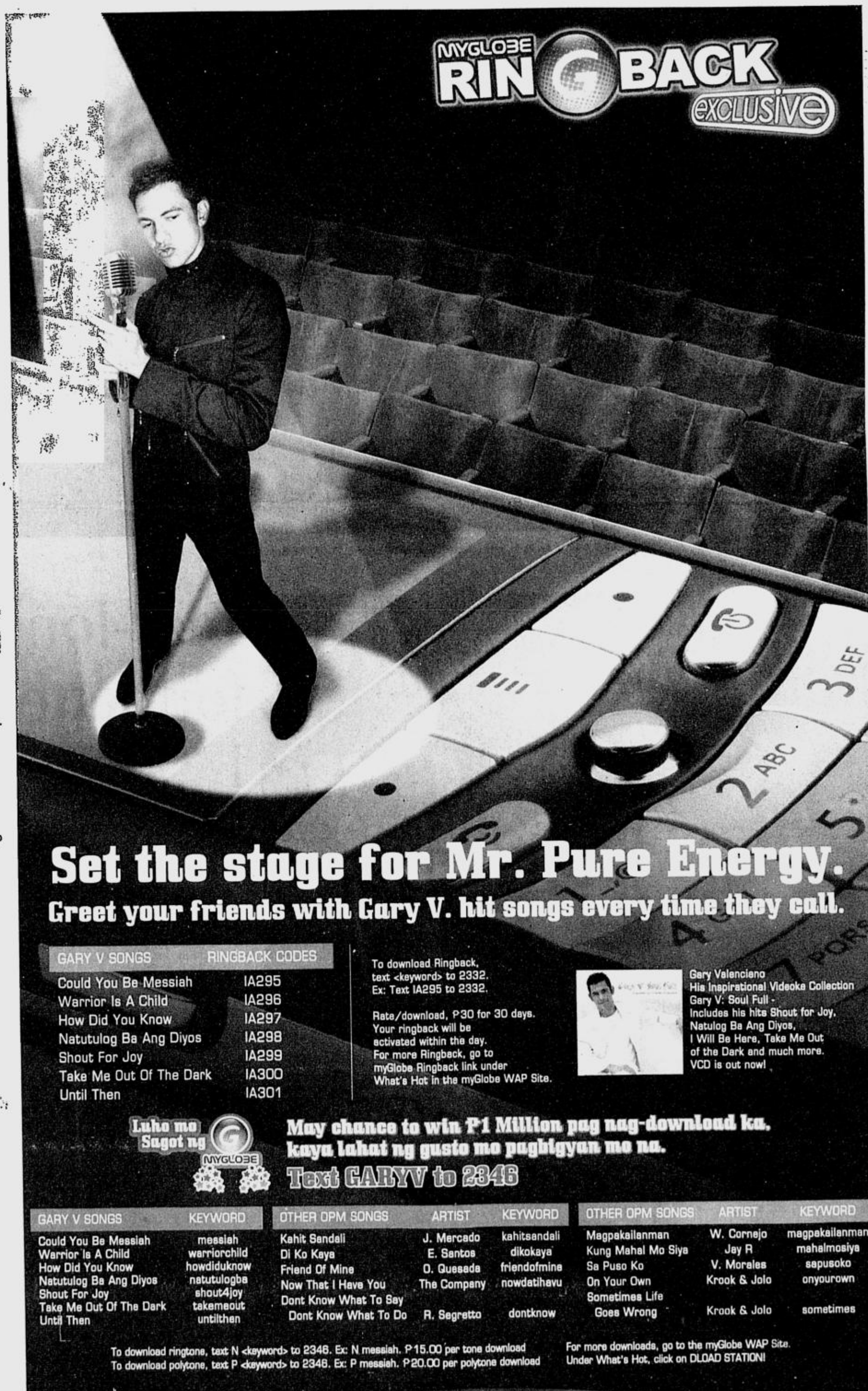
**PASTEL-BLUE** collarless woven tweed jacket with rainbow-color bursts, fringes and flower brooch detailing worn with denims

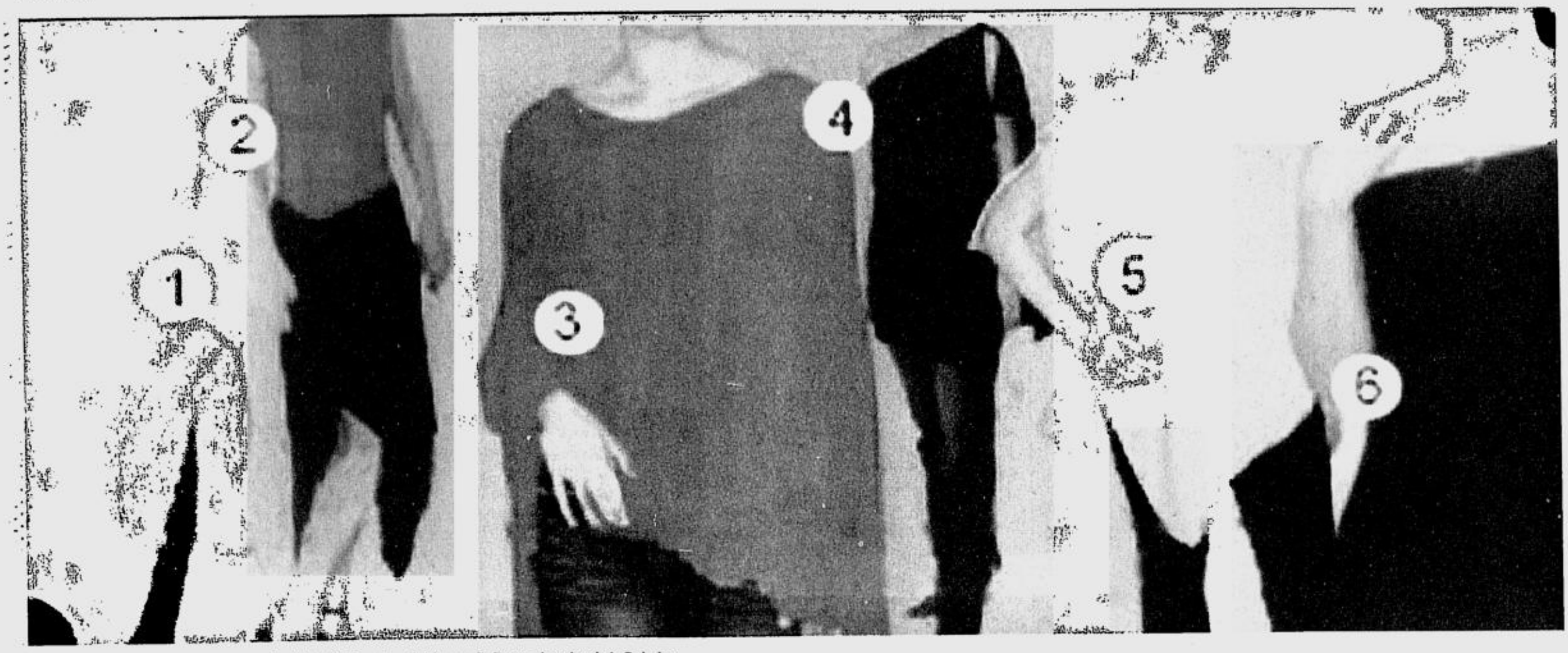


**CARNATION-COLORED** collarless tweed jacket with fringe accents worn over a chocolate turtleneck top and pants

**TWEED** powder-blue spaghetti-strapped dress with ribbon lining and fringed hemline

**CROPPED** black tweed with rainbow-color bursts and flower brooch accents worn with khaki pants






1. OFF-SHOULDER; 2. Asymmetric skirt; 3. Poncho; 4. Venus; 5. Retro-inspired; 6. Sabrina

# 12 wraps of Christmas

YOU can bring out vintage coats or shawls to get warm now that the temperature has dropped. Or you may want to try something more contemporary this holiday season from the Glam Wrap collection of Memo. The collection reinterprets the classic shawl.

Discover 12 different ways to wrap yourself up fashionably wherever you are: Sexy Tube, V-back, Halter, Romantic, Cloak, Bolero, Off-shoulder, Asymmetric skirt, Poncho, Venus, Retro and Sabrina.

Each Memo Glam Wrap can be matched with denims, dressy pants, or skirt. You can even wear it as a chic skirt.

The wraps are available in choco brown, sophisticated black, stunning red, cool khaki, burnt orange, flamingo pink, old rose and light blue.

The versatile Glam Wrap Collection is available in all Memo boutiques—SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM City Pampanga, SM Cebu, The Shops-Greenhills, Glorietta 3, SM Southmall and Festival Mall.

7. SEXY Tube; 8. V-Back; 9. Halter; 10. Romantic cut; 11. Cloak; 12. Bolero

# Year-long agenda for better Manila

IF you want to give this year a Christmas present that is different and meaningful, check out Hands on Manila's (HOM) 365 to-do's for a better Manila.

Gianna Montinola, HOM president, said the calendar for 2005 was encased in an elegant, matte-laminated red box. Every page offered specific, fun ideas for making Manila cleaner, safer, and happier.

The calendar suggests practical, easy-to-do things to help make a difference in the community. The little things can be done at home, office, Metro Rail Transit, or even while driving a car.

Some of the suggestions are:

· Don't zigzag through traffic. Pick your lane and stick to it.

· Do not nail signs to trees.

· Hold the door open for others.

· Read about the national heroes. Find the hero in you.

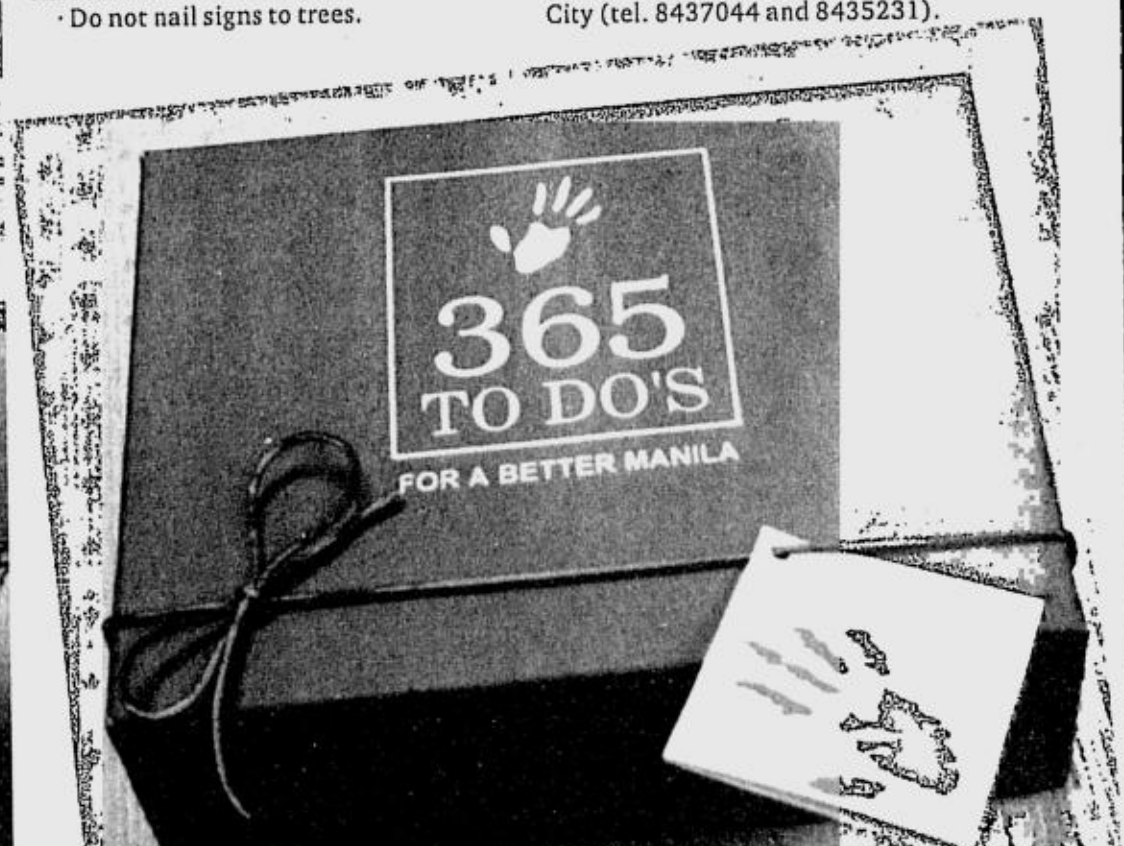
· Observe local government regulations. In Makati, smoking is prohibited except in designated areas.

Volunteers can check what service is needed by what charitable institution.

It also suggests how other cause-oriented groups can be helped in their charity work. Contact numbers are given on each page.

An advocate of volunteerism, HOM believes that volunteer action is a powerful medium for change.

For copies of the calendar, contact Hands on Manila Foundation Inc. at Unit 10, Lower Penthouse, Medical Plaza Makati Condominium Bldg., Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St. Legazpi Village, Makati City (tel. 8437044 and 8435231).



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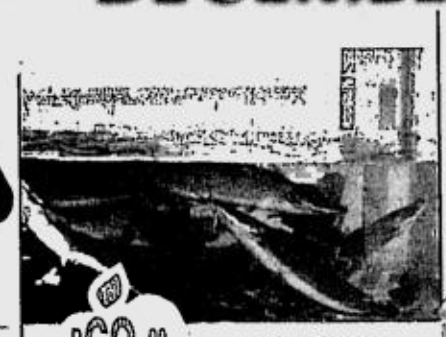
## DECEMBER 17 - 30, 2004

P315.00/kg **T-BONE**

P170.00/kg **SHANGHAI MIX**

P160.00/kg **BARBEQUE STEAK**



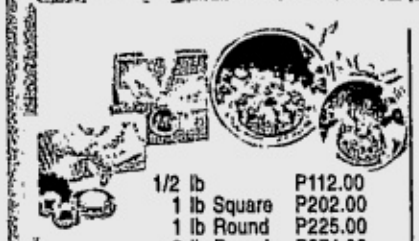
P62.00/kg **LIVE HITO**
(not available in Tuguegarao, Malabon & Eastwood)

P285.00/kg **NORWEGIAN**
Pink Salmon
(not available in Tuguegarao & Malabon)

P6.00/piece **PONKAN**
Orange (Size 100)
(not available in Tuguegarao)

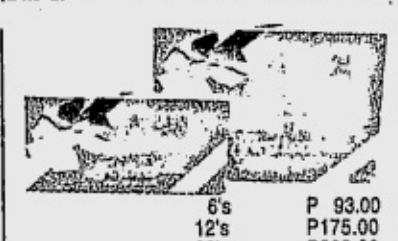
P10.00/piece **CHINA RED**
Apple (Size 120)
(not available in Tuguegarao)

P6.00/piece **CHINA YA PEAR**
(not available in Tuguegarao)



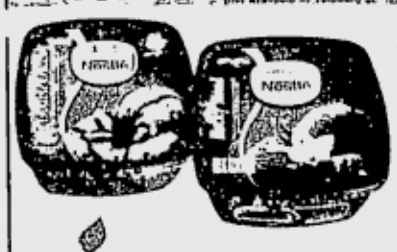
1/2 lb P112.00
1 lb Square P202.00
1 lb Round P225.00
2 lb Round P374.00

**FESTIVAL**
Imported Fruit Cakes



6's P 93.00
12's P175.00
20's P363.00

**FESTIVAL**
Food For The Gods



P189.00 each **NESTLE**
Double Dutch/
Rocky Road 1.9L

P26.25 each **NESTLE**
Yogurt Drink 0% Fat
Strawberry/Mango 250ml

## WOW! Fresh for less!

## FRESH PICK

**OF THE WEEK**

CDO BIBBO HOTDOG (JUMBO 4.5") 1kg

P134.00/pack

**CREAM-O**
Premium Choco Fudge/
Vanilla (20's) 34g
P100.00

**KEEBLER**
Chocolate Lovers
425g
P133.00

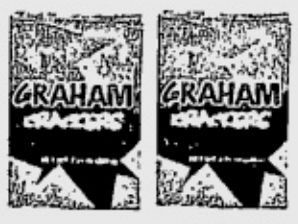
**DEWBERRY TARTS**
Choco Caramel/
Cookies & Cream (20's) 18g
P68.00 each

**LOACKER**
Quadratini Kakao
125g
P54.25 each

**OISHI**
Oheya Multi-Grain
65g
P9.10

**OISHI**
Caramel Popcorn
70g
P7.00 each

**LA PACITA**
Holiday Mix
3kg
P142.00



**LA PACITA**
Graham Crackers
220g
P19.00

**FRYTOP**
Bread Crumbs
230g
P56.50

**NESCAFE**
Gold Blend
200g
P331.75

**NESCAFE**
Gold Blend
100g
P193.00

**CAMPBELL'S**
Condensed Soup
(Cream of Mushroom)420g
P85.50

**COKE/ROYAL/SPRITE**
1.5L
P26.00

**SURF**
Dishwashing Liquid
190ml
P19.10

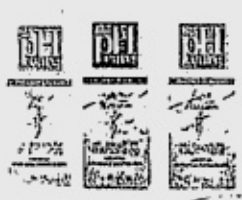
**SURF**
Dishwashing Liquid
300ml
P38.20

**MR. CLEAN**
Cologne Bar
440g
P13.75 each

**MR. CLEAN**
Powder
1kg
P50.75 each

**MAMY POKO**
Skip's
(Extra Large) 18's
P173.00

**MAMY POKO**
Skip's
(Large) 20's
P173.00



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Shower Fresh/Summer
Blossom/Pink Passion 60ml
P36.75 each

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**LITTLE ASHBEE HI-BACK WALKER**
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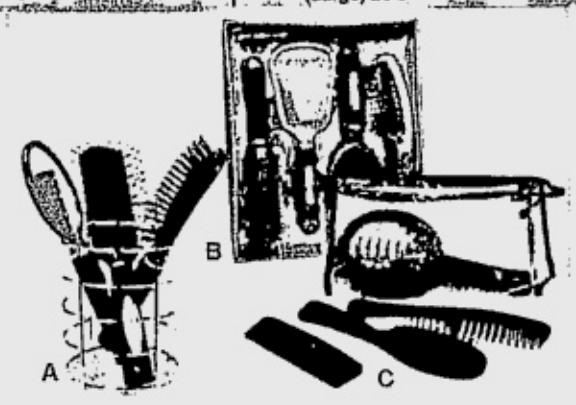
*not available in Dagupan*

**CHILDREN'S PAJAMA SET IN CANISTER**
P149.75 each



A. 3-Pc. STEEL BOX SET (617R) P129.75
B. 4-Pc. BRUSH SET (618R) P114.75
C. 5-Pc. BRUSH SET (614A) P 84.75

P119.75 each
LADIES' CUFF SLEEVE BLOUSE W/ COMBINATION

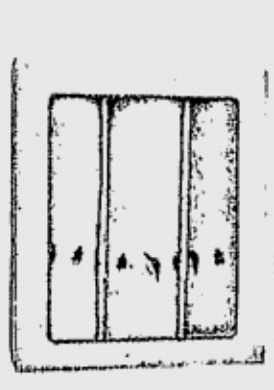
P129.75 each
LADIES' 3/4 BLOUSE W/ COMBINATION

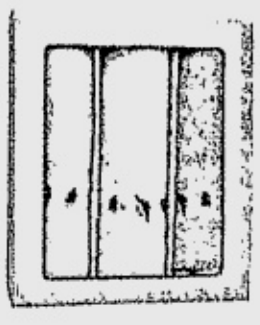
SPECIAL BOLSTER PILLOW 24"X 44" P350.00
PILLOW MATE 18" X 48" P350.00

**ASSORTED PRINTED SHOWER CURTAINS**
P89.75 each

P129.75
2-Pc. TRAY IN GIFT BOX

P99.75
1-Pc. TRAY WITH HANDLE IN GIFT BOX





3-Pc. FACE TOWEL IN GIFT BOX
P99.75 each

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ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
- Tuguegarao Center
- Metropolis Star Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Robinsons Angeles, Pampanga
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches

**ROBINSONS SUPERCENTER**
- Robinsons Place Pioneer, Mandaluyong

**BIG R SUPERCENTER**
ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
- Nepo Mall Dagupan

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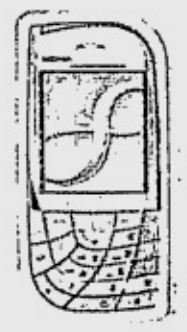
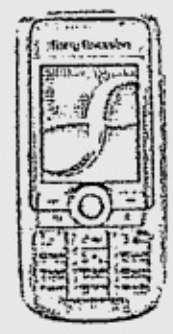


NOKIA 7610



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Promo duration: December 10, 2004 to January 31, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6026, Series of 2004.

# Made-to-measure dazzlers

Gemologist Sandra Olfato's precision-fit jewelry delivers glowing results and happy clients

By Anne A. Jambora

WHILE the exclusivity of especially designed trinkets distinctly speaks for the character of its wearer, an exacting gemologist crafts jewelry into perfection. Dangling earrings gracefully fall where they should or a necklace flows fluidly around the neck, thanks to precise measurements.

ROMANTIC Victorian-inspired pattern bangle; diamond baguette layers; round brilliant cluster accent bangle; "Temporale," a storm scene especially designed for a client for a memorable event that happened on a stormy night

Ten years ago, upon finishing an earring design with three kinds of large-sized colored stones specifically requested by a client, gemologist Sandra A. Olfato was baffled why one earring faced the front and the other turned sideways. Trying different backings didn't work. The displeased client, naturally, no longer wanted to purchase the item.

"So I measured the ear hole to the earlobe, up and down, and the thickness of the lobe of the left ear and the right ear then made all the adjustments at the back. Her ear, it turned out, was not *pantay*," Olfato recalls.

Although the client waited much longer for the earrings to fit her ears, the end result was so satisfactory that soon, by word of mouth, Olfato's reputation in the business was established.

## Experience and patience

Olfato is a graduate gemologist of the Gemological Institute of America in New York. She is the managing director of PS2 (tel. 8981918/ 2021/2022), Design & Gemological Consultations, at 2/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati, where her growing clientele continually turns to her for expertise in the various fields of jewelry and jewelry-making.

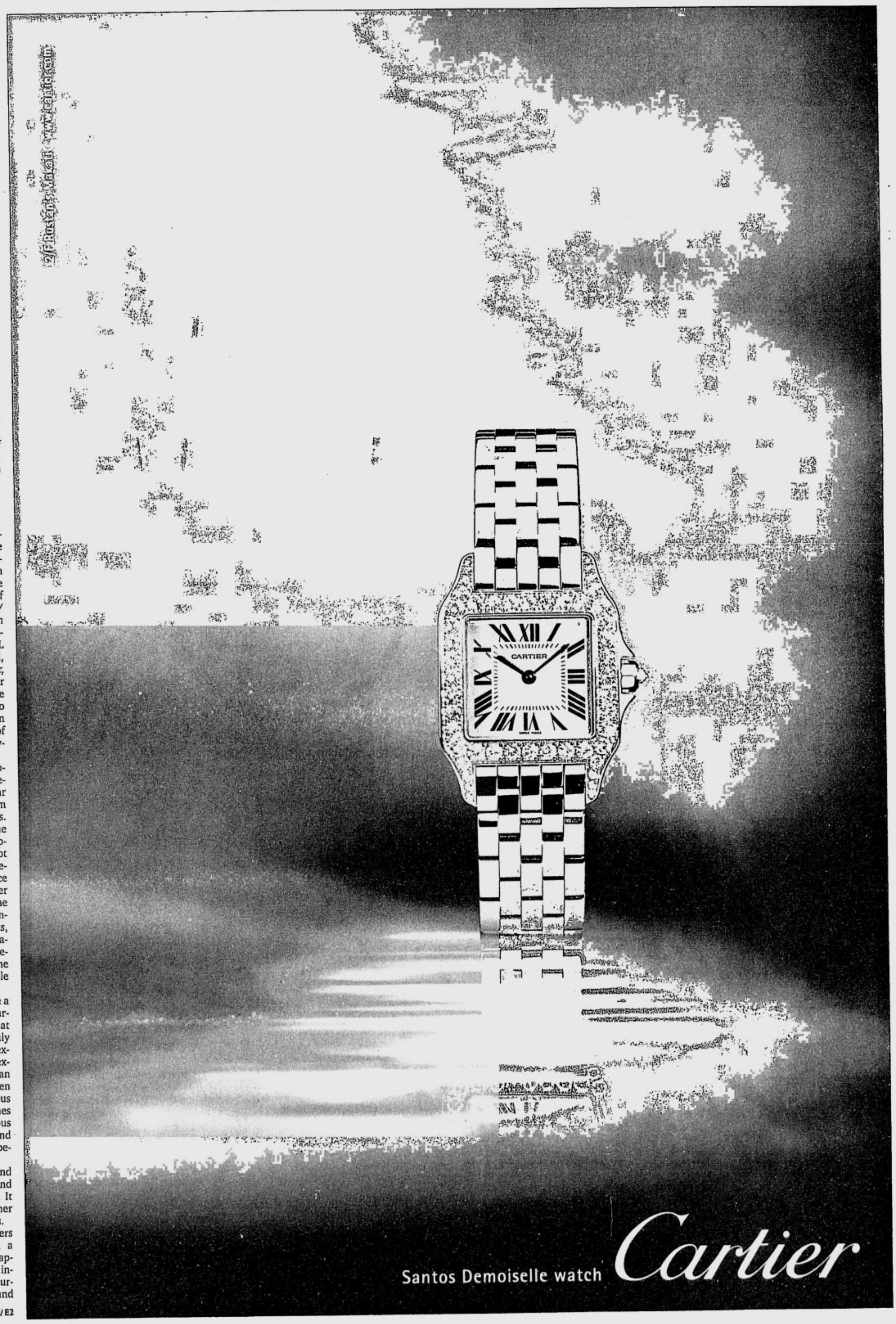
Five out of 10 people have measurements for the left ear that's different from the right, she says. Same thing with the neck, where the sloping of the neck—not the thickness—decides how a necklace smoothly slides over the shoulders. The same goes for bangles and bracelets, where wrist measurements are required to determine the most comfortable fit.

It may sound like a snap measuring earlobes and all for that flawless fit, but only through years of experience and inexorable patience can one develop a keen sense of how various metals and stones and their numerous combinations and designs exactly behave when worn.

"It's a tedious and taxing science—and very personalized. It makes the consumer happy," Olfato says.

PS2 also offers jewelry appraisal, a valuation and appraisal system for inheritance and insurance purposes, and

MADE-TO-MEASURE/ E2



**MULTIFUNCTIONAL** sets, with pendants convertible to brooches

**ROSE BANGLE** especially designed for a client who was fond of roses; white-gold bangle in matte finish with embedded semiprecious colored stones for everyday wear; elegant weave bracelet with diamond baguettes for daytime and evening wear

# Made-to-measure dazzlers

From page E1

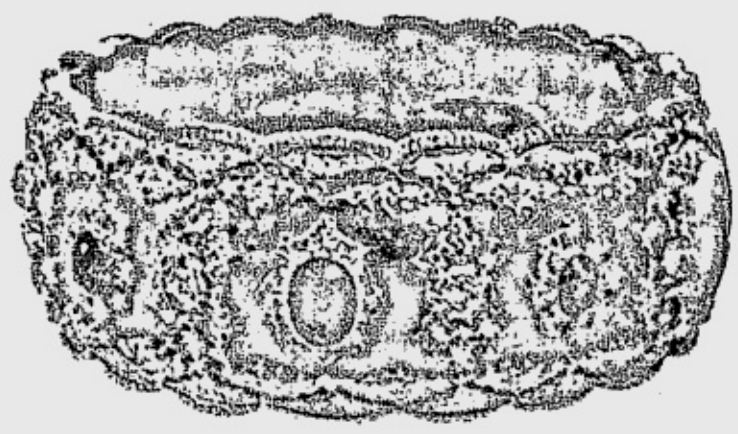
gemological analysis and identification of stones.

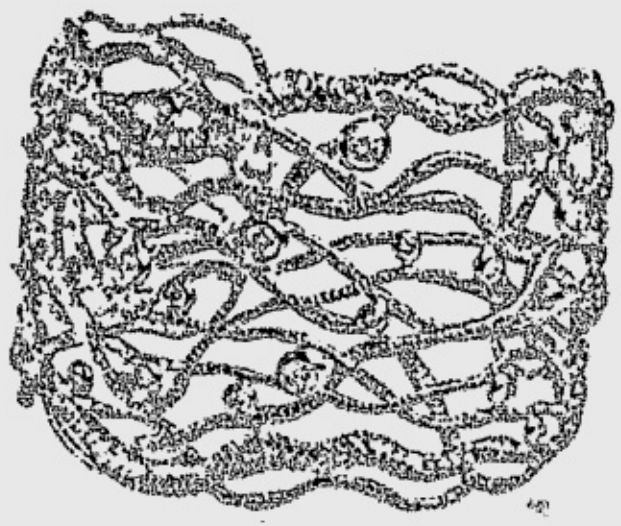
Olfato not only gives a professional assessment of an item's worth, but also analyzes its historical value in terms of increment of appreciation in, say, the past 10 years.

When members of a certain family squabbled and couldn't decide what to do with an old large brooch—selling the item was unthinkable, and they couldn't possibly take turns possessing the jewelry—Olfato suggested breaking it down into several pieces for each member. The sentimental value was preserved in the family, and each was happy to wear the jewelry as a modern piece.

For massive jewelry that's too heavy to wear, Olfato fashions coffee-table jewelry art. She studies a client's home interiors—a must, she says—and creates a mount for the jewelry so that it seamlessly blends with the house's look.

"Filipinos are very open-minded. You just have to discuss the many possibilities of their jewelry items," she says.





**YELLOW-GOLD** Indian-inspired bangle with ruby cabochon and diamonds; "Vanessa," designed after a client's request to symbolize vanity and style that will match the personality of the lady recipient; "Very Art Deco," the beauty of asymmetrical patterns through mesh, wave-like patterns

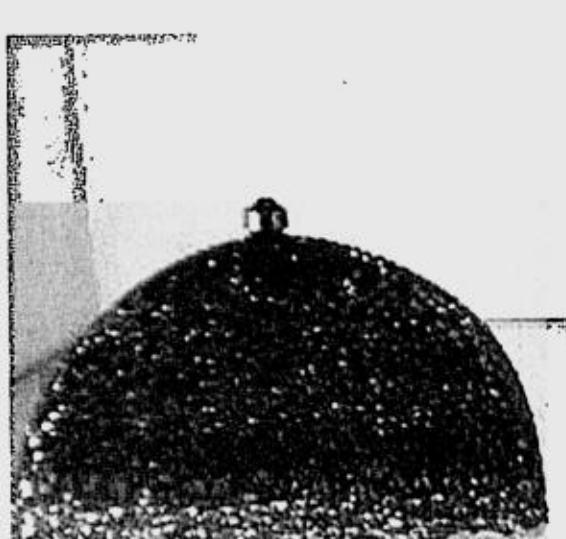
## True passion

Olfato's true passion is designing and creating jewelry. She can spruce up an old watch, another field of expertise, and make it look like a diamond evening timepiece.

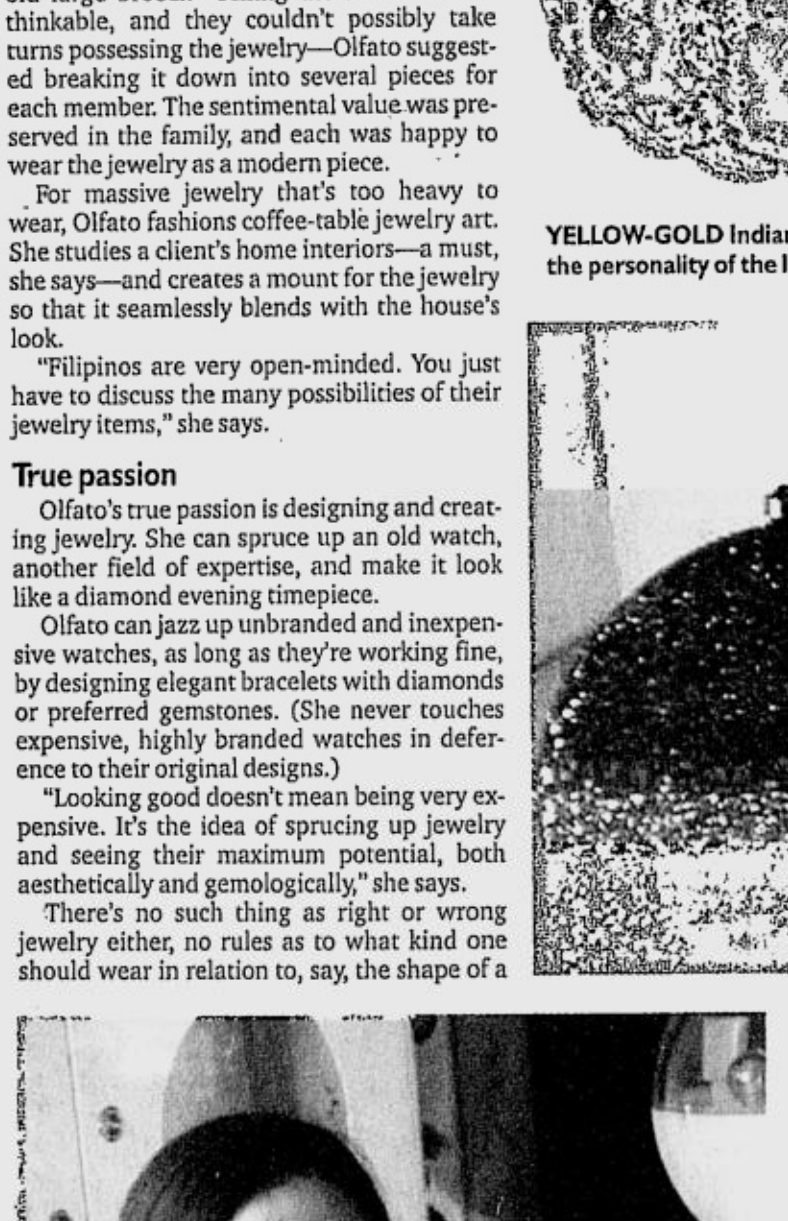
Olfato can jazz up unbranded and inexpensive watches, as long as they're working fine, by designing elegant bracelets with diamonds or preferred gemstones. (She never touches expensive, highly branded watches in deference to their original designs.)

"Looking good doesn't mean being very expensive. It's the idea of sprucing up jewelry and seeing their maximum potential, both aesthetically and gemologically," she says.

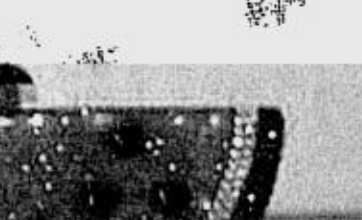
There's no such thing as right or wrong jewelry either, no rules as to what kind one should wear in relation to, say, the shape of a face. A person with a round face can be very shy, while another can be vivacious and outgoing, so Olfato takes time to know and understand her client's personality during consultation.



**SPARKLING** evening purses



**"I CAN** conceptualize jewelry designs in five minutes, that's why I know I was meant for this business."



**PENDANTS** with geometric patterns. "The best designs in the world relate to a historic event. History is the one source of artistic inspiration. I don't break apart and destroy the originality of a design. I try to enhance it, but I don't kill the piece to give birth to something new," Olfato says.

"It's not the shape of the face. It's the personality. There's a degree of confidence when they wear jewelry. So I execute designs based on the personality," says Olfato, who adds that she's genuinely interested in people.

Design artistry, she says, starts from research, not from ingenuity or originality. "I thought being artistic meant total originality, with shapes you've never seen in your life. But they end up odd-looking. I once attempted to be 'original' and the result looked like amoeba," she says.

Market segmentation is based on personal style, not the gender or age. PS2, which offers design and consultancy services, offers both classic and traditional lines. Lustro, the newly opened gem bar right next to it, have bold, avant-garde samples.

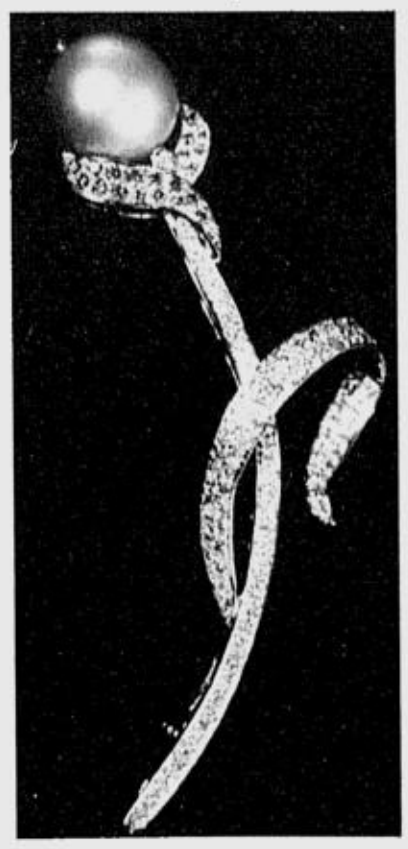
Years in the biz have sharpened Olfato's instincts such that she knows exactly what to offer to men who are clueless about what kind of jewelry the women in their lives would want, but still insist on keeping it a surprise.

After inquiring about their girlfriends, Olfato would match the information to the preference and priority of what, to her experience, most females of that personality want.

And she always hits the bull's eye, she says, as the recipients drop by her shop afterward to thank her.

"I'm in this for the love of jewelry art. The trading part is not really my thing, but business comes when you have happy clients," she says.

*E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph*



**STAR SHINE.** Blue sapphire and diamonds (above) on a stunning starfish design ring and earrings set, Ocampo's Fine Jewellery; Exquisitely designed and crafted pearl and colored diamond brooch in white and yellow gold (right), from Maristella Fine Jewelry, 66 Level B, Shoppesville, Greenhills, San Juan, and Robinsons Place, 2/L, Pioneer Street corner Edsa, Mandaluyong

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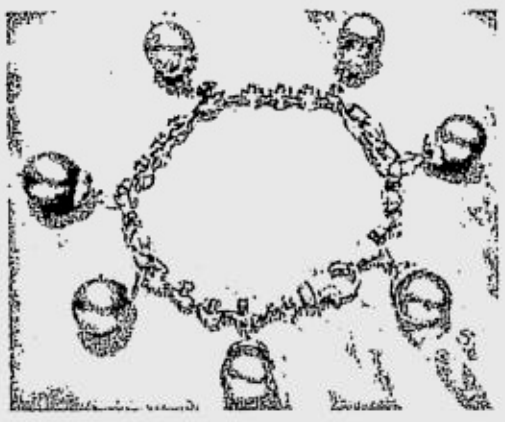
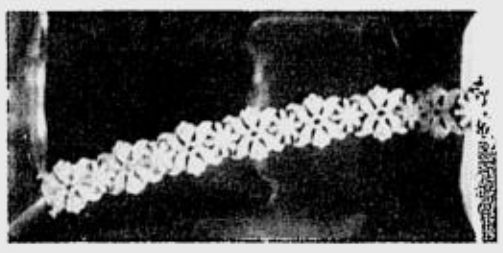
# Yule glitter and sparkle

Romance her with stones—the frost of diamonds, the shimmer of sapphires. Add the glint of gold and the lustrous beauty of pearls and oh, what a holiday it will be!

**DIAMONDS** and pearls. Set of earrings, ring, necklace with bangle (not in photo), 197 pieces of diamond, 61 princess cut diamond, seven South Sea pearls with a piece of pearl from Oceanic 1911



**WHITE-GOLD** charm bracelet with rainbow-colored South Sea pearls with diamond caps, Ocampo's Fine Jewellery



**PAVE** set diamond filigree bracelet in an enchanting floral design, Ocampo's Fine Jewellery, 3/L, Robinsons Galleria; G/L, Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga; Ocampo's Olongapo and Ocampo's Bataan

**DANGLING** white gold earring 14k, 6.7 g from Oceanic 1911. Stores located at Glorietta 1, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Festival Mall, SM Northmall, SM City Manila, Ayala Center Cebu and Robinsons Place Bacolod

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   - For every P500,000 availed HomePlus or AutoPlus loans.
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Total of 85 Winners of a Samsung, Sony Ericsson, Panasonic and Nokia Cellphones in the 4 Preliminary Draws

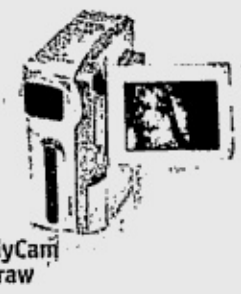
**PROMO PERIOD:**
December 2, 2004 to July 31, 2005

**PRELIMINARY DRAWS:**
•February 23, 2005 •June 23, 2005
•April 26, 2005 •August 16, 2005

**Grand Draw:**
August 16, 2005

1 Winner of a HK Tour for 2 with pocket money in the Grand Draw

1 Winner of a Samsung Home Entertainment Package in the Grand Draw



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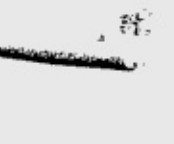

kidrocket

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**SMS PRAYER CARDS**

Mealtime Prayer

GRACE: *The eyes of all wait upon you, O God, and you give them their food in due season.*

Bless us

GRACE: *Lord Jesus Christ, be Thou our guest, and share the food which Thou hast blessed.*

Text GRACE ON to 288 to subscribe.
Text GRACE OFF to 288 to unsubscribe

**RINGTONES**

To get a list of Kiddie Monotones: Text KIDTONE to 288
To get a list of Kiddie Polytones: Text KIDPOLY TO 288

Text TONE <keyword> to 288
Text POLY <keyword> to 288

| KEYWORD: | TONE: | KEYWORD: | TONE: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rugrats | Rugrats Theme Song | Laugh | Laughter |
| Rockabye | Rock-A-Bye Baby | Space | Space Zoom |

Text KID for list of SMART Kid Services
For list of Kid MMS, text KIDMMS to 288
For list of Kid Games, text KIDGAMES to 288
For list of Kid Animated Greetings, text KIDMSAVER to 288

* Wallpapers, Greeting Cards and Ringtones cost P15.00 each.
Daily mealtime prayer cards cost P5.00 each.
**P2.50 per message sent.

**Downloads available to all SMART subscribers.**

PARTICIPATING WIRELESS CENTERS: SMART Tower, Festival Mall, ATC, Robinsosn Ermita, SM Southmall, SM Bicutan, Podium, SM Manila, Shangrila, SM Megamall, SM North EDSA, Robinsons Galleria, SM Baguio, Robinsons Imus, SM Marilao, Robinsons Bacolod, SM Iloilo, SM Cebu, SM Davao & SM CDO (20 wireless centers)

Promo runs from Dec. 10, 2004 - Jan. 13, 2005. For DTI-NCR Permit No. 3271. Series of 2004.
See flyers for details.

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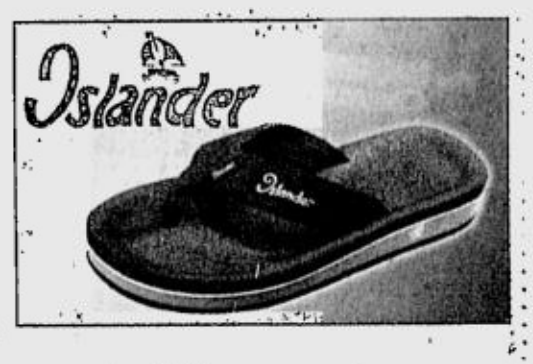
Please call the SMART Sales Hotline at 848 6882. For questions, comments or concerns, call the SMART Hotline at 888 1111, or *888 (toll-free), email us at smartkid@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.




# Christmas shopping without tears

Do your holiday purchases in one bang by checking into a hotel right in the heart of the shopping district

**By Ave Garcia**
*Contributor*

WHAT is the best way to do your Christmas shopping in Makati?

Check in after lunch on a weekday at Oakwood Suites right next to Glorietta 4. That way you have all afternoon and part of the next day to get your shopping done in one bang—with much less of the usual jostling anywhere else.

Al Legaspi, resident manager of Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, observes that in the weeks before Christmas many of the business travelers staying at luxury residences and hotels usually head home for the holidays. To boost revenues, many establishments offer special room rates for local residents.

Our conclusion: a stay in an Oakwood suite, complete with kitchen, dining and seating area, does approximate a trip to Shenzen or Bangkok without the extra hassles of flying.

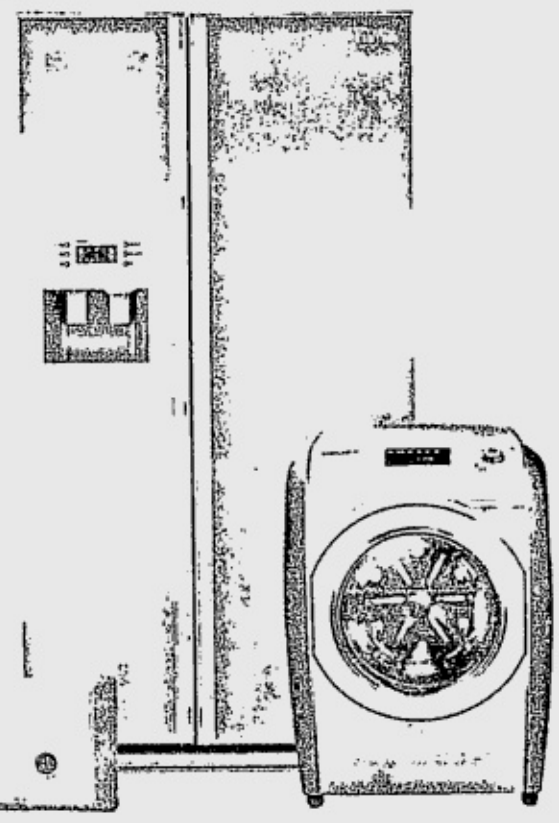
Sure prices may not be the same at the Ayala Center and at any of Shenzen's shopping areas. But when you factor out the cost of airfare and incidentals associated with traveling e.g. airport tax, things even out. Better yet, the kind of accommodations you get in Oakwood or any other Makati establishment would beat those offered by the budget foreign tours any time.

From the point of view of someone who just has one or two days to spare to complete

CHRISTMAS/ F2

HOME for the holidays shopping is Oakwood.

SAMSUNG



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You're in a Protected Zone with the Silver Nano Health System™ from Samsung. Its advanced technology protects the air you breathe, the clothes you wear and even the food you eat.

Here's how it works. Utilising the proven anti-bacterial and sterilisation properties of silver, we've developed a unique process to create nano-sized silver ions. These ions kill and prevent the propagation of bacteria.

So now, your clothes will have up to 99.9% sterilisation and an anti-bacterial effect that lasts up to 30 days. The air you breathe will be bacteria-free because it passes through a Silver Nano filter. And the food you eat will stay fresh and healthy for a longer period.

Create your own bacteria-free Silver Nano Protected Zone with the latest Samsung appliances.

How Silver Nano works:




1. Bacteria cell 2. Cell wall is dissolved 3. Cell membrane bursts 4. Bacteria cell dies

The results:




How the AG+ Ion eliminates body odour

Conventional
Genuine sweat is odourless. But when a saprophyte (fungus or bacterium) comes into contact with a glycende of sweat, a fatty acid which emits an unpleasant odour is produced.

With Silver Nano Technology
The Ag+ ion kills the saprophyte. Without it, sweat cannot decompose to emit an unpleasant odour.

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Collections New York

Ground Floor Glorietta 3-Ayala Center in beside McDonald's infront of Esprit entrance Tower record Tel: 8933310 / 8131133
Weekdays 10:am to 8:pm Weekend 10:am to 9:pm

Pre-Christmas SALE 70% DISCOUNT

| | |
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| Versace, Callaway, Mario Armani, (T-Shirt) | P599.99 P1,995 |
| Mario Armani (Pants) | P999.99 P5,999.95 |
| Versace, YSL Pierre Cardin, Mario Armani, Valentino(Neckties) | P399.99 P5,995 |
| Hermes, Tods, Gucci Imported Bags | P999.99 P5,995 |
| Gucci, Versace, Christian Dior, Mont Blanc (Belt). Versace, Burberry, Ferragamo Coach Wallets(ladies and men). Versacé, Gucci, Cartier Imported Sunglasses. Imported Blouses. | P599.99 |

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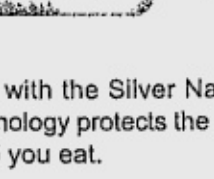

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The INQUIRER Character Quest

Many have dared to be discovered and exposed but **only 30** get a shot at making it to the Final 6 Characters.

You can help us decide who's in and who's out.

Vote the FINAL SIX Online or SMS

Character to be filled:
**CYNTHIA**
Occupation:
Bar Owner
Age range:
36 to 42 years old
Profile:
Powerful, perfectionist, and from a prominent family best describe Cynthia. Her success is a combination of birthright and smart business acumen. A stickler for rules, Cynthia expects everyone working with and for her to abide by them.

AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF CYNTHIA?

CODE C1
Anna A.

CODE C2
Eve C.

CODE C3
Irene G.

CODE C4
Rosalie dR.

CODE C5
Winnie M.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE NOW!
TEXT YOUR VOTE
Simply text ICQ <character code> <your name> <your age> and send to 09209131658.

OR GO ONLINE AT
www.characterquest.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REST for the wicked shopaholic is a rewarding experience in this Oakwood suite bedroom.

# Christmas shopping without tears


From page F1


a Christmas shopping list that includes extended families, countless *inaanaks* and important business contacts, Makati is a shopper's mecca. Yes, it is associated with the high-end stores at Glorietta and Greenbelt 4 but it also has a number of value places. To name a few: Landmark which has among the largest and most varied selections of Christmas decor this year; the new SM with all the breathing and shopping space you want (what a visual delight!); its related anchor stores—Toy Kingdom and Ace Hardware for the children and men in your life. Add to that Red Lane and the Goldcrest complex where a number of Greenhills outlets maintain branches. The aggrupation of all these stores in one area just simply makes it worth an overnight stay.

Furthermore, the newly opened Market! Market!, where one can find truly priceless buys at great prices, is just a short drive away.

To maximize our time, we used the afternoon after check in to head for the places that would surely fill up after 5 p.m.—Toy Kingdom (metal toy trucks for as low as P95); SM's teen's section; then Landmark's third floor for home items (vases as low as P80, ceramics at about the same price range and less) and clothes for the children ("dry-fit" basketball shorts for as low as P180, the same thing goes for double the price at regular athletic stores). As soon as the office crowd began trickling in, we headed for the less crowd-prone Rustan's Department Store's home section for kitchen gadgets and home items (yes, you can find items for P500 that look like they would go for double the price!).

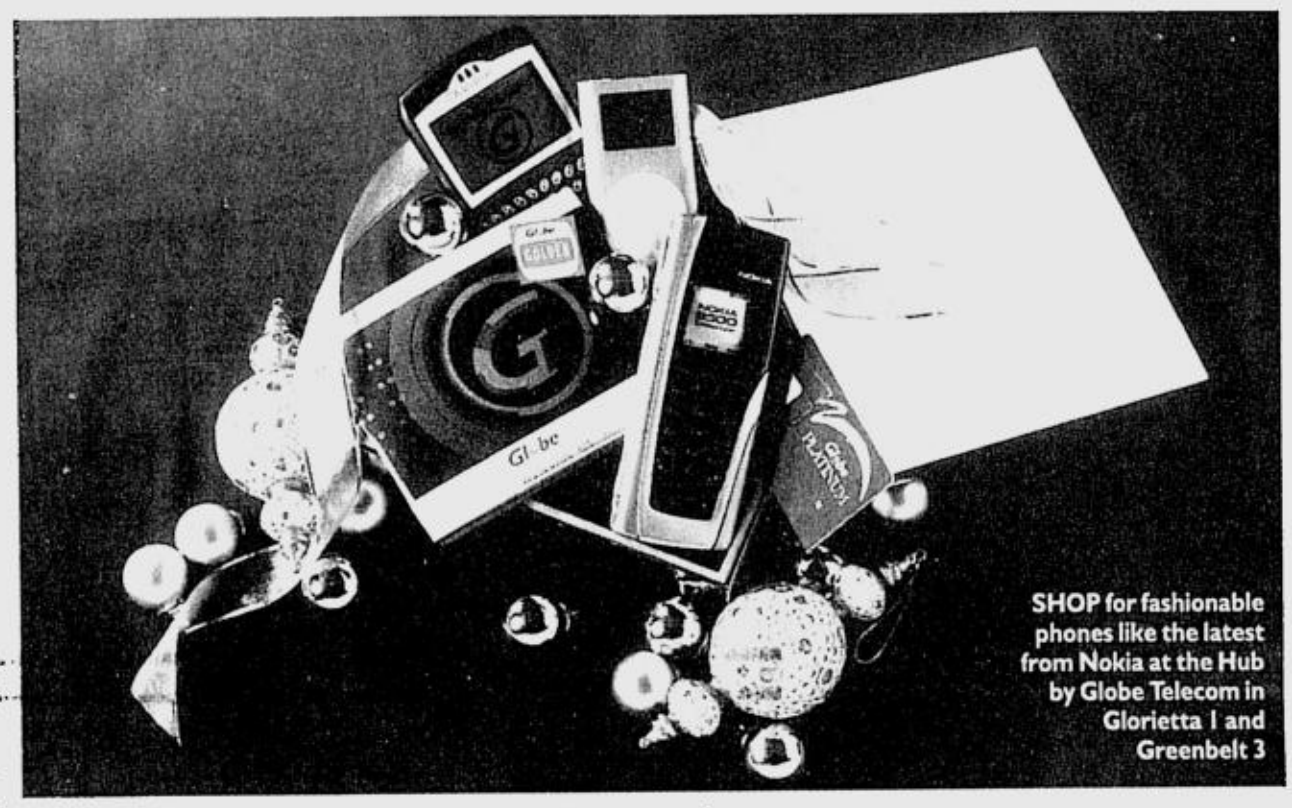
What a joy it was to be able to stash the items from each store at the ground-floor lobby of the Oakwood then head off for the next store. Freed from the hassles of retrieving and storing packages, we could move much quicker. That night, our Oakwood suite was a good place to cocoon and assess the shopping we had accomplished and the items that still had to be bought the next day.

We decided our main meal for the next day would be the very popular Oakwood breakfast with its array of fruits, breads, hot and cold dishes including luscious smoked salmon. At 10 a.m., we were back at SM and Toy Kingdom which is relatively crowd free before noon.

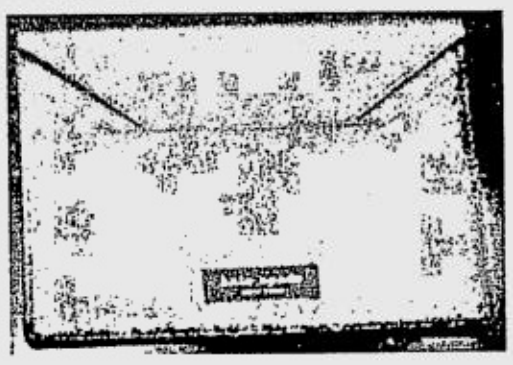
Man, nevertheless, does not live on value places alone. We could not resist visiting the Digital Exchange of Glorietta 3 which is a showcase of the latest gadgets from Nokia, Samsung and other techie manufacturers as well as the trendier stores of Greenbelt—Firma, Kish and Pineapple. To our surprise, there were items less than P500 in the Greenbelt haunts that would make great gifts.

We had hoped to have time for a visit to the new Ayala Museum. But we were not able to proceed beyond the gift shop with its art-inspired stationery, plates and décor.

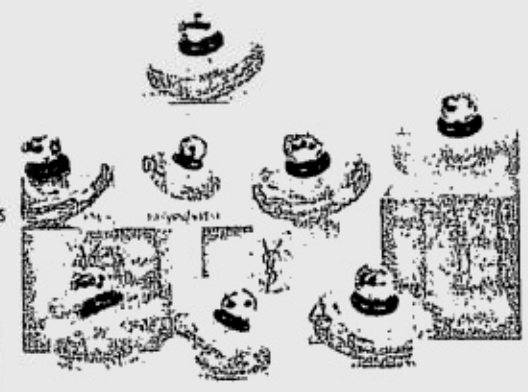
Inebriated by all the walking we had done in air-conditioned comfort within Oakwood and the Ayala Center as well as the tasks we had accomplished, we were ready to head home. We told ourselves we surely could get used to this.



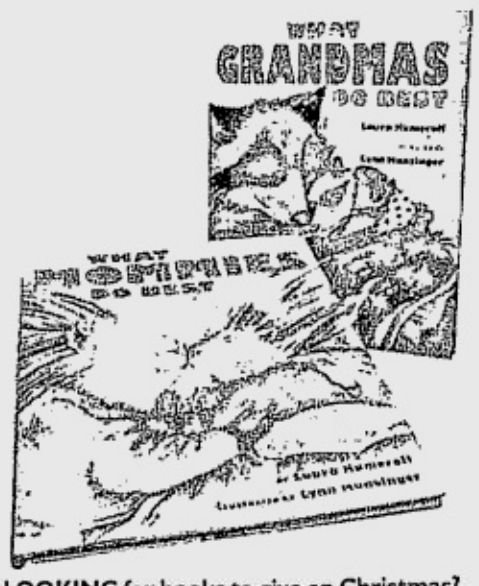
SHOP for fashionable phones like the latest from Nokia at the Hub by Globe Telecom in Glorietta 1 and Greenbelt 3



FOR someone who likes to travel with photos, get this red photo envelope (left) from Kate Spade, 1/L Greenbelt. Buy leather cleaner at Coach, 1/L, Greenbelt 4. RUDY ESPERAS

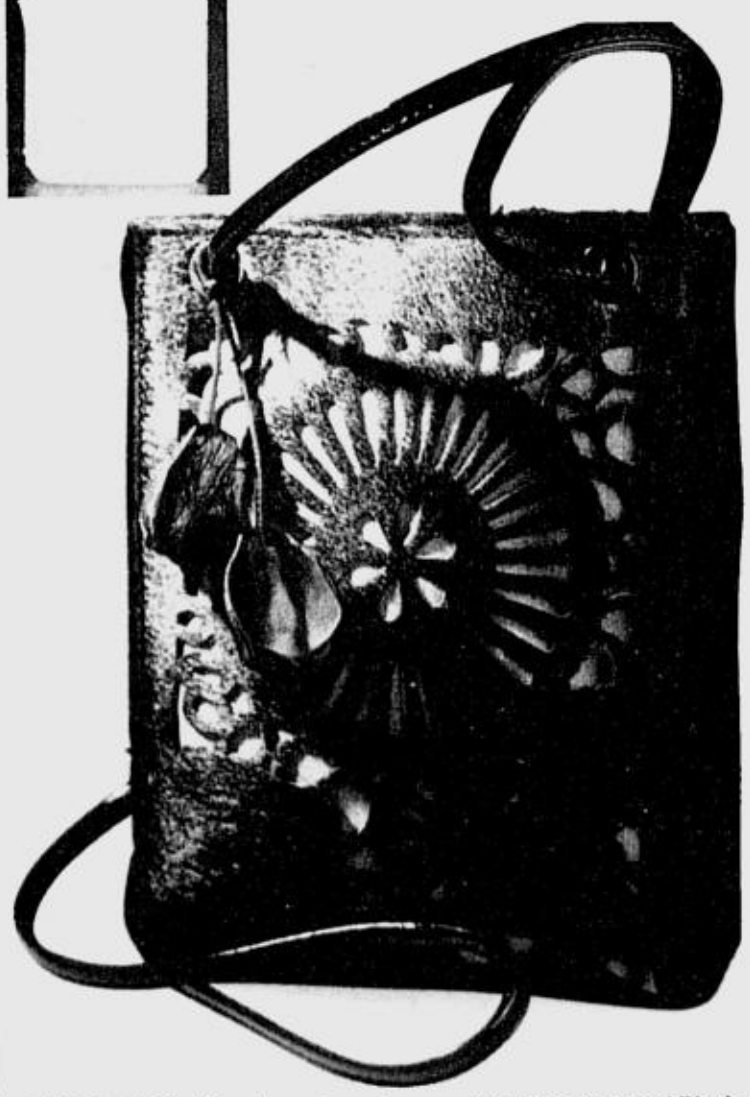


YVES Saint Laurent's Baby Doll is a lighthearted fragrance which has spawned three versions of the fruity-floral scent: Baby Doll Light, Baby Doll Fairytale and Baby Doll Light Limited Edition. Available at Rustan's, which is next door to Oakwood.




LOOKING for books to give on Christmas? National Book Store in Glorietta 1 is just around the corner from Oakwood.

WELL-APPOINTED living room at Oakwood Suites: best for cocooning and assessing how far you've gone in your shopping



FOR the fashionista, Longchamp's geometrically perforated Black Déco bag with shocking-pink silk lining in calfskin leather and cowhide velvet in black/pink (or black/taupe), available at Rustan's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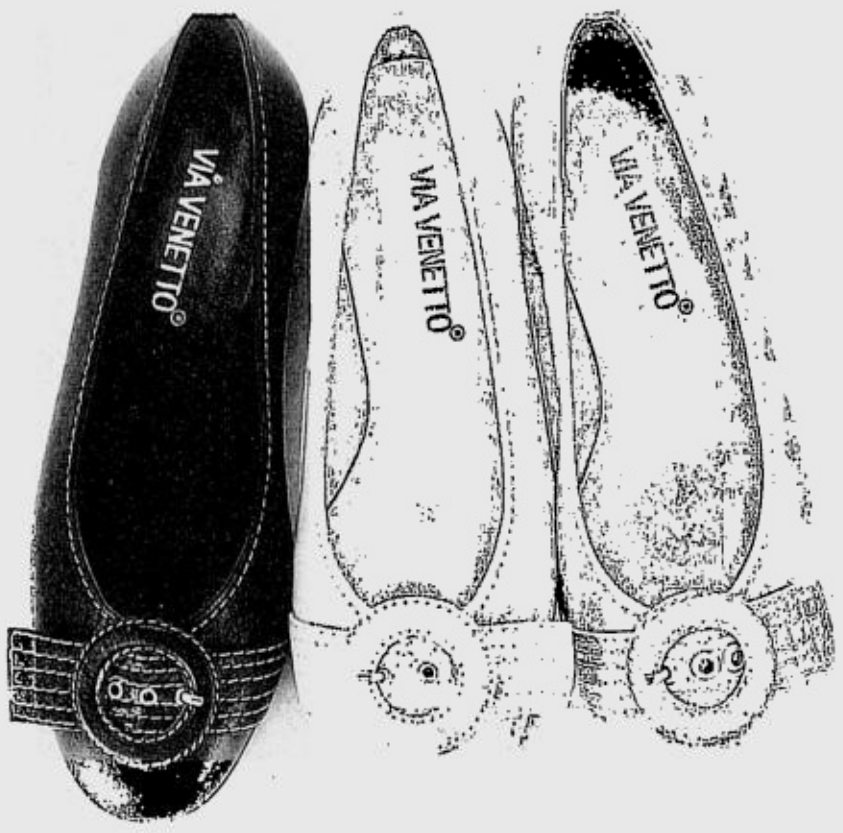
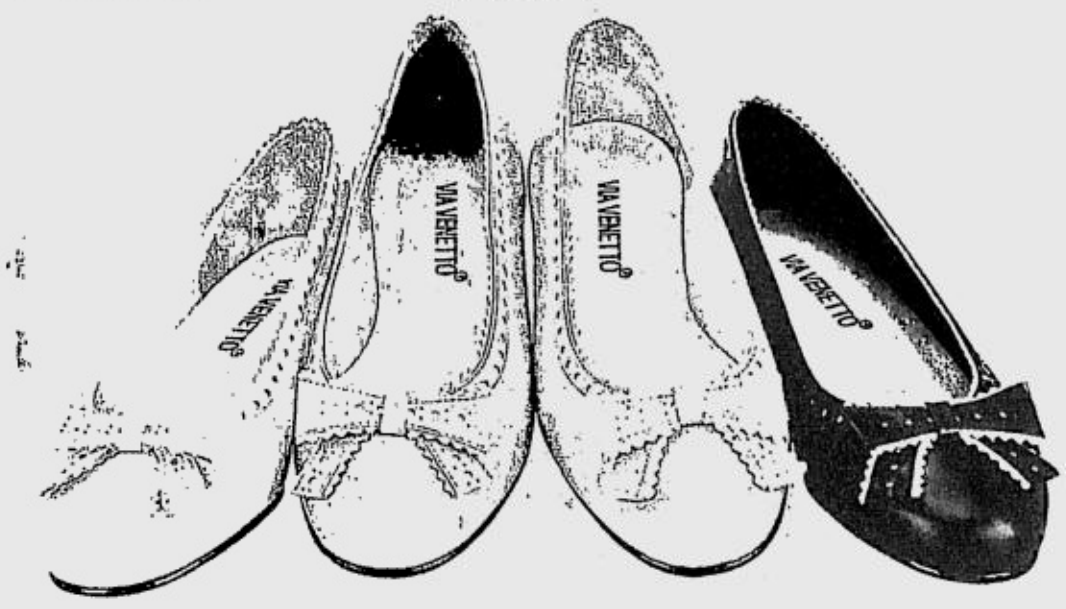



THIS season is high on flats: Via Venetto's offerings include buckled bow designs in kidskin.




FLAT-OUT fabulous are these flats from Via Venetto with piped ribbon accent.

Support
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

# Flat is chic again

PUT your stilettos back in their boxes. It's time to make it easy on your feet relax. Flats are back.

Via Venetto, one of the country's most dependable names in fashionable footwear, lets you do the party scene this season with the minimum of wear and tear on your feet.

Complement your tweed jackets, '40s skirts and capris with a pair of Via Venetto's flat kidskin numbers decorated with round-buckled bows, or dainty ribbons with complementary colored piping. They come in black, gold, soft pink and cream.

If an evening function calls for a bit of heel, Via Veneto suggests the round-toed, two-toned pumps in bronze and black to go with the "granny look" of the season. They are available in sexy kidskin and luxurious suede.

Via Venetto is located at Alabang Town Center New Wing, Alabang Muntinlupa; Glorietta 1, Ayala Center Makati; Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati; SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City; SM City Annex North EDSA, Quezon City; and SM City Cebu, Reclamation Area, Cebu City.

## *Mall tour for stylish duo*

KAREL Marquez and Japoy Lizardo, Bobson's new young endorsers, did autograph sessions for fans in the Bobson Mall Tour around Robinsons Metro East, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Robinsons Dept. Store Festival Mall Alabang, and SM Megamall.

The "Meet & Greet" event was opened by the Miriam College Company of One dance group. A fashion show featuring the Holiday collection of Bobson followed. Karel also sang.

Japoy and Karel personify the cool, casual and stylish attitude of Bobson youths. Both are making waves. Japoy is busy with commercial modeling while honing his Taekwondo skills in preparation for an international competition. Karel is MYX VJ.

Bobson is available in leading department stores and malls nationwide. Visit www.bobson.com.ph

Karel Marquez and Japoy Lizardo with Bobson's brand manager Rosemarie Rayala

GOVERNMENT WARNING:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

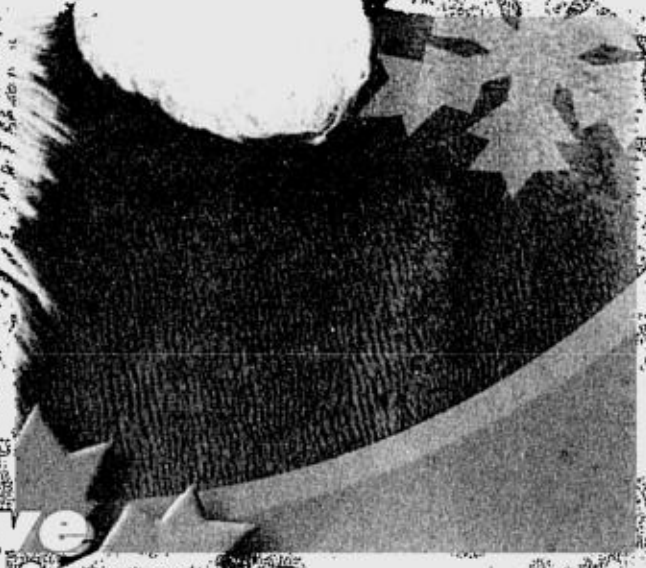
Guess what Santa and Nokia have in common?
They both come from Finland!

And you're invited to spend Christmas
with Nokia and Santa at the

# NOKIA Holiday

Your Christmas Funland

on December 17-19, 2004
at Glorietta Activity Center,
Ayala Center, Makati



Live Entertainment with the Akafellas

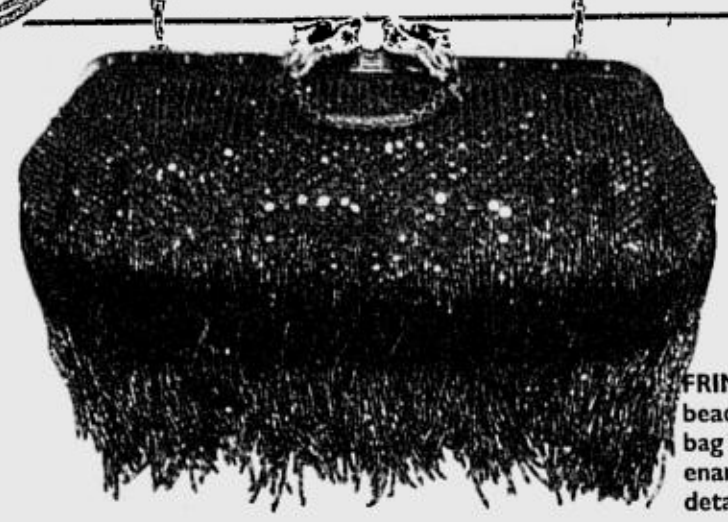
Hourly Raffle of Exciting Prizes

Try Out the Latest and Upcoming Nokia Phones

Picture-taking with Santa

**TOM FORD'S** dragon evening bag in purple mink with enamel dragon detail

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS



**FRINGED** and beaded evening bag in purple with enamel dragon detail

**EVENING** bag in black mink with Swarovski dragon detail

# Enter the dragon

TOM Ford's goodbye collection for Gucci included a lot of purple and dragon motifs. His Dragon Bag, which catches the eyes with two Swarovski crystal-encrusted dragons facing each other, pearls in their mouths and a double-strand gold bamboo-chain shoulder strap, has achieved cult status internationally. The glam-bag is available in python, crocodile, fur and velvet.

In the Philippines, a very limited number of Ford's dragon bags and a wide range of other Gucci hand-held creations are sold at Gucci, L1 in Greenbelt 4. Gucci is distributed exclusively by Store Specialists Inc.

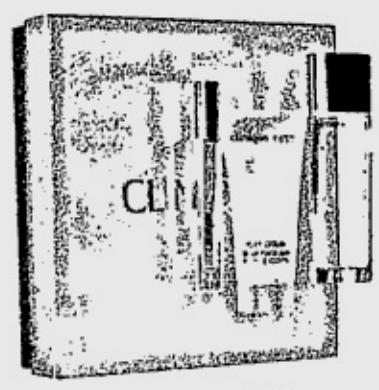
**BROCADE** velvet flap bag in dark purple with purple croco trim, enamel dragon detail and double-strand bamboo chain

**FLAP** bag in beige/ebony **GG** fabric with purple leather trim and other dragon bag details

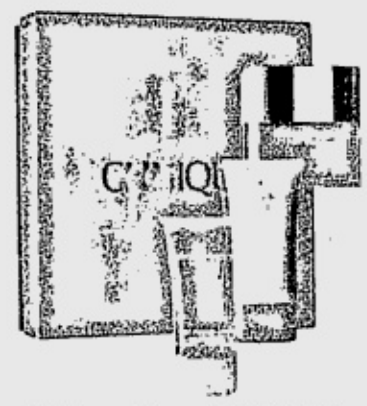
**PURPLE** version of the dragon bag, in leather

Merry Clinique.
Holiday treats are here.

A Giving Heart
P 2,400 (Regular Price P 3,400)
Clinique Happy Heart Perfume Spray 50ml,
Body Cream 75ml,
Perfume Rollerball 6ml

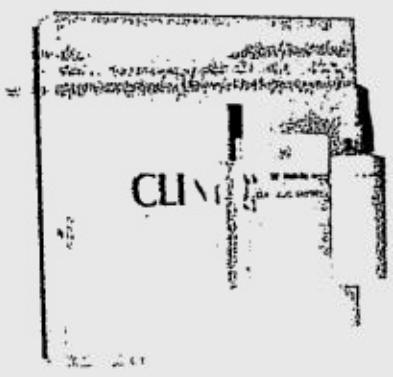


Clinique Happy ™ Times
P 2,400 (Regular Price P 3,400)
Clinique Happy Perfume Spray 50ml,
Body Cream 75ml,
Perfume Rollerball 6ml



Clinique Happy ™ For Men
P 2,300 (Regular Price P 3,100)
Clinique Happy For Men Cologne Spray 50ml,
Clinique Happy For Men After Shave Balm 50ml,
Clinique Happy For Men Body & Hair Wash 50ml

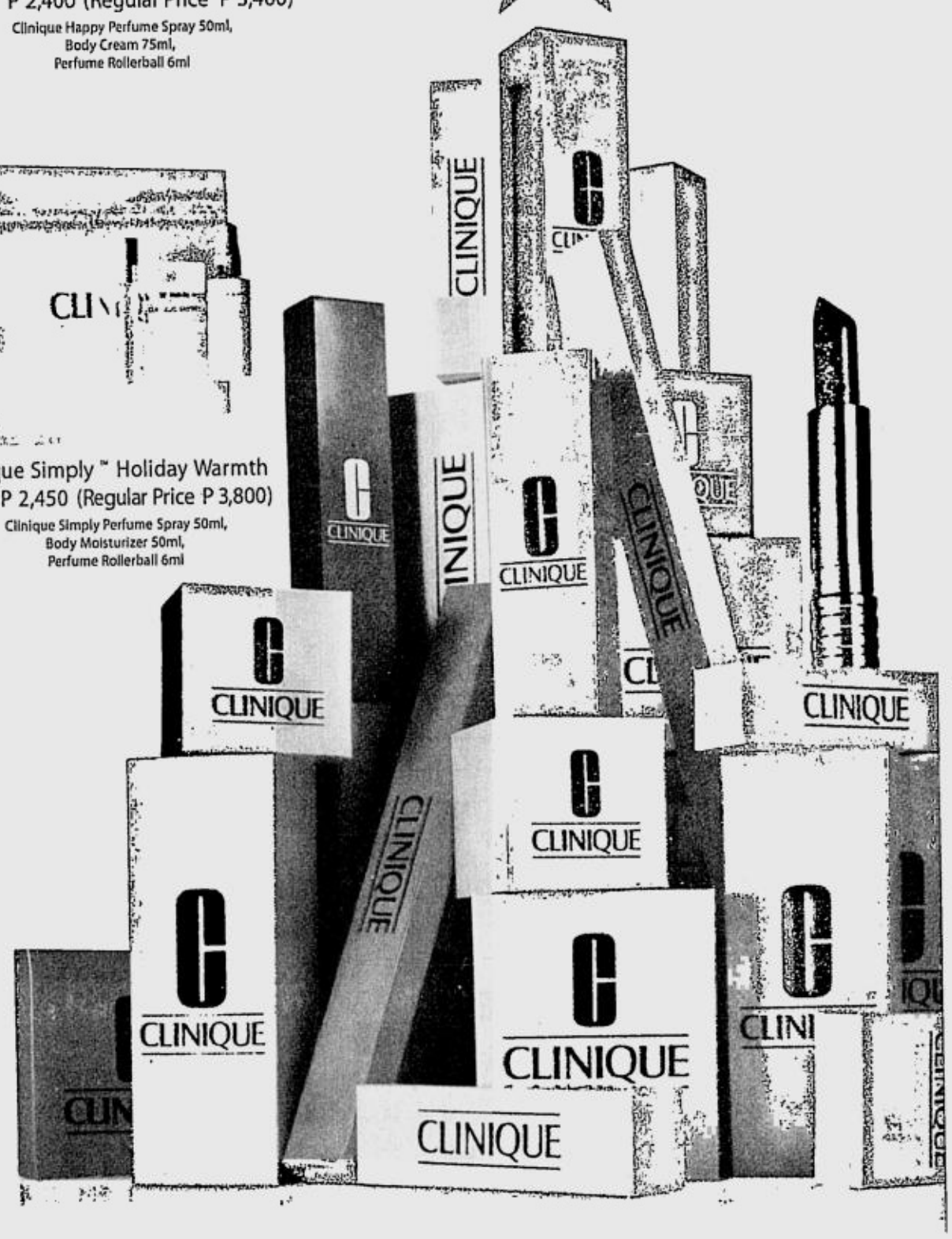
Clinique Great Skin Treats
P 2,800 (Regular Price P 5,100)
Rinse-Off Foaming Cleanser 75ml,
Deep Comfort Body Butter 40ml,
Advanced Stop Signs Eye Preventive Cream SPF 15 15ml,
Total Turnaround Visible Skin Renewer 30ml,
Colour Surge Bare Brilliance Lipstick Mini in Waterviolet 2.4g



Clinique Simply ™ Holiday Warmth
P 2,450 (Regular Price P 3,800)
Clinique Simply Perfume Spray 50ml,
Body Moisturizer 50ml,
Perfume Rollerball 6ml



Clinique High Impact Holiday
P 2,800 (Regular Price P 5,400)
All About Eyes 15ml,
Colour Surge Soft Shimmer Eye Shadow Palette,
six shades in a silver-coloured compact 4.8g,
Lash Doubling Mascara & Lash Building Primer Duo 4g,
Rinse-Off Eye Makeup Solvent 60ml




Free 5-pc deluxe gift set with any Clinique purchase of Php 3,000 and above in a single receipt.
From December 10 - 24, 2004. One to a customer please. Not valid for value sets or accesories

Promotion is valid until December 24, 2004.

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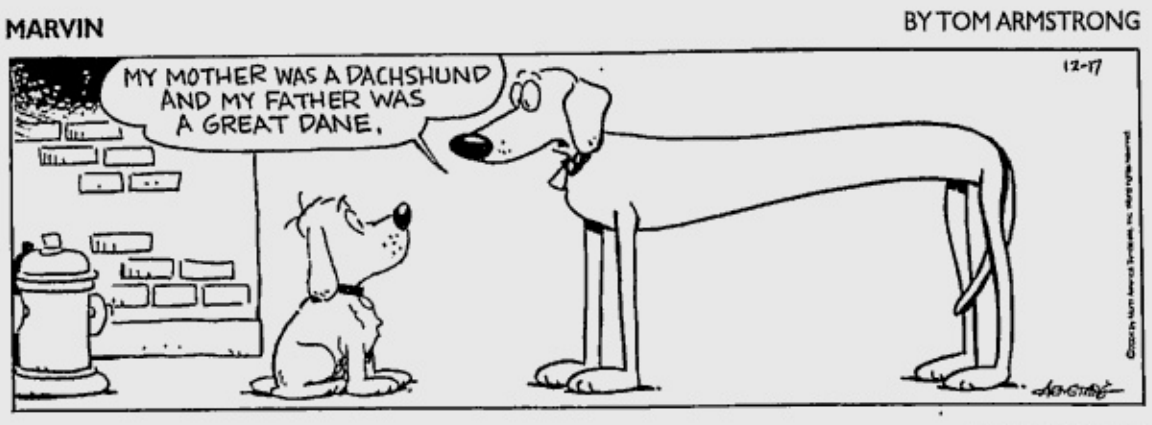
Beauty bar
Level 1, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati
Tel. No. 892 3166 & 892 3153

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3033. Series of 2004.

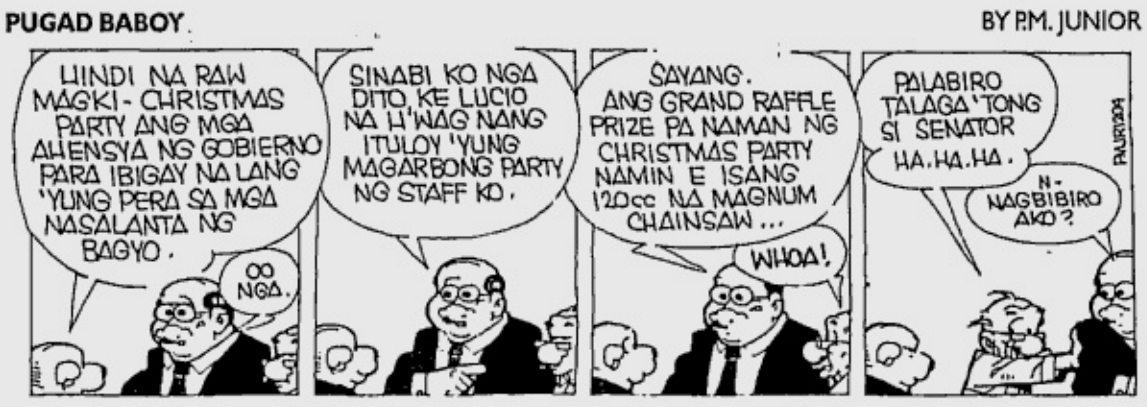
**FOXTROT** BY BILL AMEND

**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA

**MARVIN** BY TOM ARMSTRONG



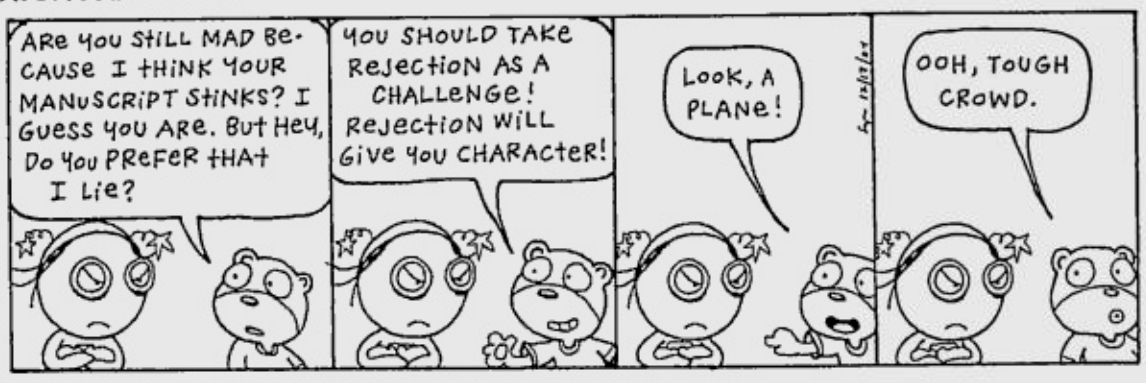

**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR




**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT

**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL

**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO




**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You have an academic mind, and many of you are writers, actors and teachers. You're concerned with the underlying structure of society. You like to know how things work. You're intrigued by philosophy and academic questions. Actions speak louder than words for you. The year ahead is a time of finishing things and wrapping up.
**Birthdate of:** William Safire, writer; Milla Jovovich, model/actress; Ford Madox Ford, novelist/poet.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** This is an excellent time to plan a trip or go back to school. Your ambition this month is to broaden your horizon in any way that you can.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Clean up details connected with shared property, inheritances, wills, estates, debt and credit. You'll feel so much better if you tie up some of these loose ends.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Set aside some time to have a heart-to-heart talk with a close friend or partner. It's easy to take those who are closest to you for granted. Big mistake; life is short.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Do everything you possibly can to get more organized at work and at home. You need this in your life now. (Plus, you own a lot of stuff—admit it!)

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** This is an extremely fun-loving, carefree, adventurous, romantic time for you. It's the perfect time for a vacation. It's the perfect time for a love affair. Kick up your heels!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** At different times in our lives, we need to change our focus. Right now, you have to focus on home and family. They need your attention.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Don't stay at home now. Get out and hustle. Short trips, visits and conversations with everybody, plus negotiating, and wheeling and dealing keep you hopping now and for the next few weeks.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Trust your moneymaking ideas right now. You're hot! You might have to spend money now in order to make money. Either way, the cash flow is flying!

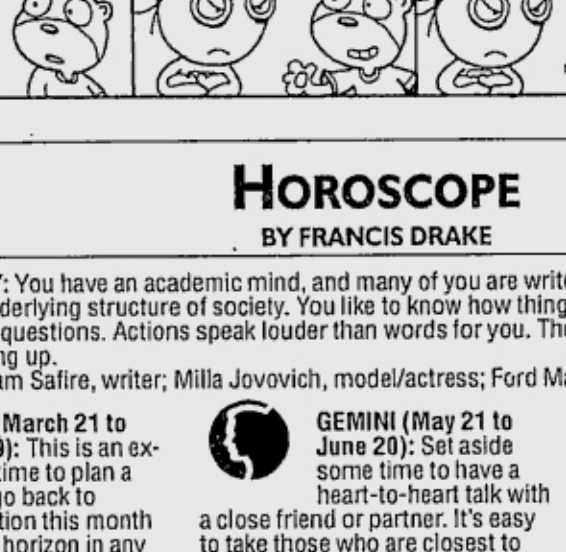
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** There are four planets in your sign now. The entire world is having a Sagittarian hit. Naturally, you just feel strong, vigorous, dynamic and full of energy! Yay!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** You definitely need more rest than usual. Give this to yourself if you can. Steal little moments or hours of solitude wherever you can find them.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Work with others now to accomplish your goals. Make your success the success of others. People are willing to help you now.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** All eyes are on you, dear Pisces. Accept increased responsibilities, because you will handle them with graceful ease. Do not doubt yourself now. Everyone is impressed with you—especially your boss.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**
1 Down Under bird
4 Comic Abbott
7 Go towards
14 "La Boheme" composer
16 Iridescent
17 Maui and Manhattan
18 States of esteem
19 Attack decks?
21 Alphabet trio
22 Cornda celeb
23 Possess like a Scotsman
25 Kisser
28 Projecting part
29 Dana of "Baretta"
32 Nova Scotia hrs
33 Uses emery
34 Get all melodramatic
35 Simply
37 Glassy looks
38 __ ballerina
39 Casual conversations
42 U.S. summer hrs.
43 Hopping, old-style
44 Singer Horne
45 D-day craft
46 Golfer Ernie
47 Alloy used in strong magnets
49 Underwear letters
51 Attack hair?
56 John Wayne film
58 Car color combo
59 How tuna may be packed
60 Buttonlike flowers
61 Rejecters of pluralism
62 Hurricane center
63 Service charge

**DOWN**
1 Larger-than-life
2 Thick porridge
3 Bruins sch.
4 Eureka!
5 Stint on salary
6 Make out
7 Poetic times
8 Imitated
9 Attack linen?
10 Actor Gulager
11 Attack files?
12 Individuals
13 Egg holder
15 Golfers' vehicles
20 SS Alex Rodriguez
24 __ mater
25 City in the Texas panhandle
26 Employers
27 Attack feathers?
30 Bomb blast, in headlines
31 Takes five
33 Attack pics?
36 First Oscar winner Jannings
37 Flight of steps
39 Creates a hubbub
40 Dean Martin's detective
41 O'Toole of "Smallville"
45 Plunders
48 Exact copy
49 Fedora feature
50 Ristorante beverage
52 Aid a criminal
53 French do
54 Joint with a cap?
55 Mobutu __ Seko of Zaire
57 Chou En-_

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
12/17/04

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | P | S | | J | U | S | T | | T | A | R | P | S |
| A | Q | U | A | | O | V | E | R | | O | R | I | E | L |
| D | U | P | L | I | C | A | T | E | B | R | I | D | G | E |
| R | I | A | L | T | O | | H | A | L | T | | S | S | W |
| E | P | E | E | I | S | T | | D | A | I | S | | | |
| | | | S | E | R | F | | B | L | I | M | P | S | |
| S | W | A | B | | L | I | L | A | | L | E | E | R | Y |
| T | H | E | R | L | Y | O | U | G | O | A | G | A | I | N |
| A | I | R | E | S | | S | K | I | D | | F | I | D | G | E |
| G | R | O | T | T | O | | F | N | O | R | | | | |
| | | | S | I | M | A | | G | R | A | C | K | L | E |
| A | D | S | | M | I | M | I | | L | I | A | N | A | S |
| R | E | P | E | A | T | O | F | F | E | N | D | E | R | S |
| M | E | A | N | T | | U | F | O | S | | R | A | G | E |
| S | P | R | E | E | | R | Y | E | S | | E | D | E | N |

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12/17/04

**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA

**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

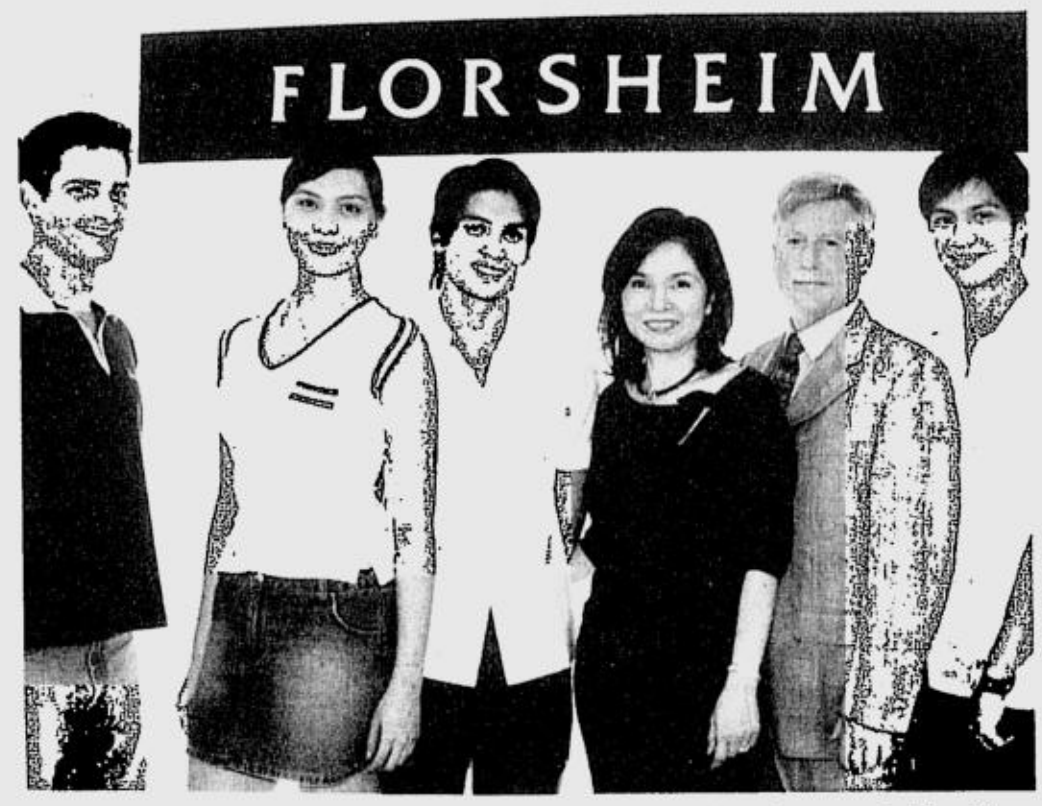
**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BUTCH de la Cruz and Jed Arricivita, senior sales manager, Makati Shangri-La

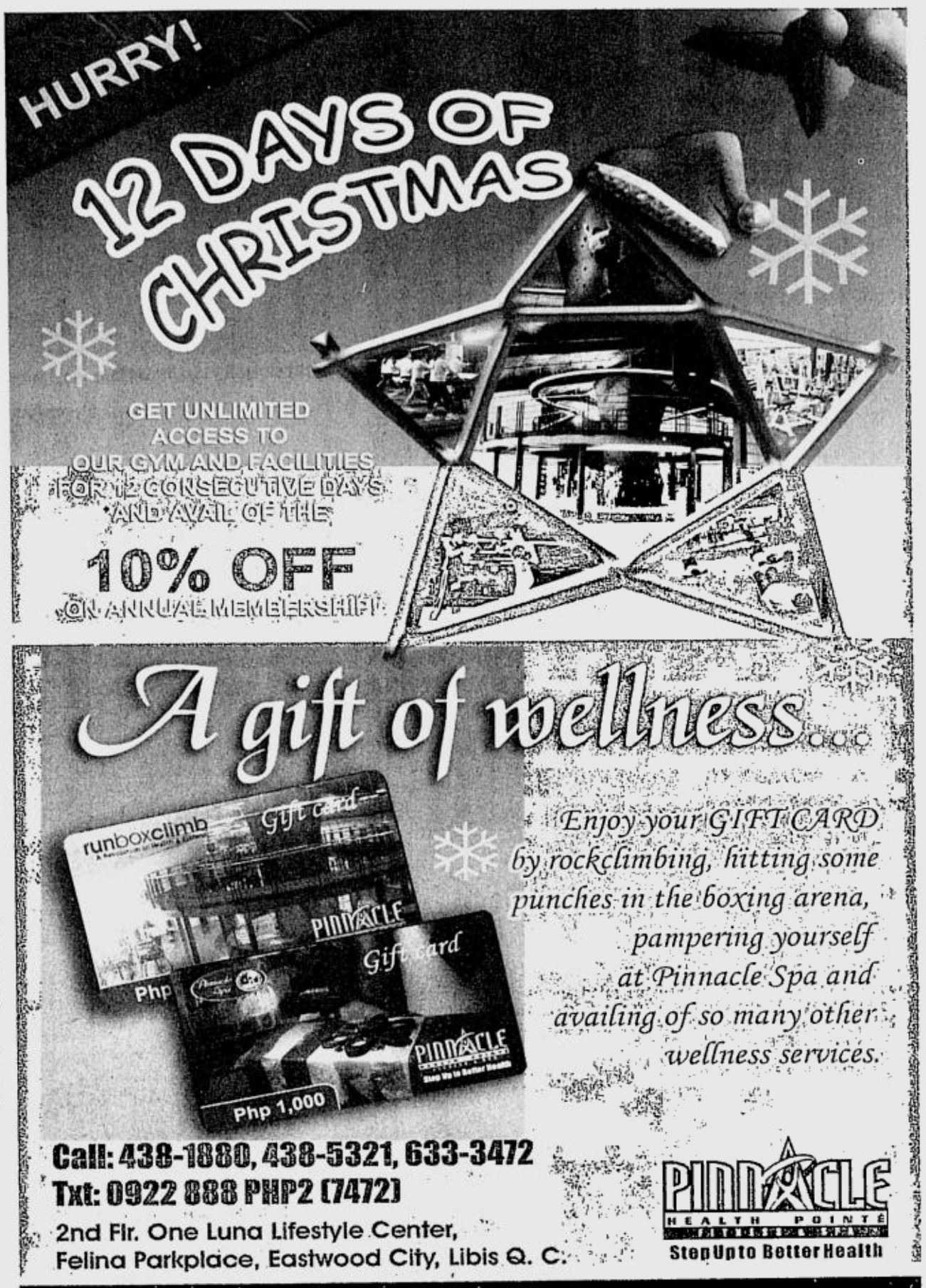
POPULAR COUPLE Butch de Guzman and wife Ginni (center photo)

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE. Brilliant entrepreneur Ruth Velasco-Co, INQUIRER's Just Shop's Jenni Epperson and stylish Mons Tantoco

EDSA SHANGRI-LA hotshots. Milen Treicher, director of communications; Wolfgang Krueger, GM; Martin Brenner, F&B director; and Timothy Stanhope, executive chef




MODELS Matt Hadfield, Isabel Roces, Luke Jickain and Gary Dulatas (extreme right), with Annabelle Chavez, vice president for operations, Retail Specialists, Inc. (exclusive distributor of Florsheim in the Philippines), and John Plummer, Florsheim president Asia Pacific Limited




# Running in Circles

From page G4

beauty of the lush, tropical landscape, with its miniature falls.

Dancers did a dreamlike interpretation of circles and loops. Then the fabulous **Bituin Escalante** sang "Circles," a song especially composed by **Jesse Lucas** for the event, no less. After that, there was a super-fashion show, featuring 16 special designs by top designers.

Shangri-La's hottest name-droppables were all beaming with pride over the hotel's latest gorgeous face-lift, darlings.

Heading the pack was dashing **Tom Zita**, chair of Shangri-La's and Resorts Philippines, and his wife, the elegant **Kathy Mabanta**; and **Symon Bridle**, VP for operations of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts International.

Also there were the brilliant and captivating **Peggy Angeles**, VP for sales and marketing, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Internationals; tall and popular **Wolfgang Krueger, Martin Brenner, Benedict Peter Lim**, and **John Rice**, all of Edsa Shangri-La; and everyone's favorite personality, the adorable **Jarlath Lynch**, general manager of Makati Shangri-La.

By 12 a.m. this opening bash was still on a roll, with our town's hot invitees enjoying the bubbly to the fullest. Now, isn't this soo Makati Shangri-La, *palanggas*?

## Best foot forward

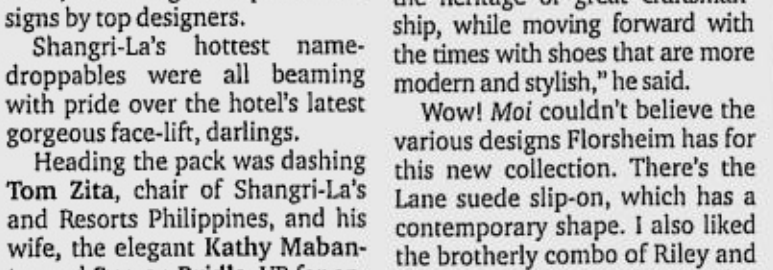
The world-renowned super comfy shoe Florsheim dished out its latest collection showcasing contemporary styles.

Jetting into town was Florsheim Asia-Pacific LTD's hotshot president **John Plummer**. "Florsheim is creating a big difference by having the heritage of great craftsmanship, while moving forward with the times with shoes that are more modern and stylish," he said.

Wow! *Moi* couldn't believe the various designs Florsheim has for this new collection. There's the Lane suede slip-on, which has a contemporary shape. I also liked the brotherly combo of Riley and Russel leather dress shoes. Riley is the leather slip made of lush hidé and comfortable heels. It's perfect for bar- and boardroom-hopping. Russel is more rugged. It's rough, tough but so respectable, *palanggas*, it never lost its age-old mark of cool class.

Hey, who needs a car, *palanggas*, when you can walk on these with real comfort and ease?

On the subject of shoes, did you notice last season's styles weré those awful flat-front shoes that looked like they had hit a brick wall? Now the new Italian pointed shoes look comfortable only if you happen to have one toe. As for me, *palanggas*, give me the comfy round-front style.



FLORSHEIM's special invitees, sportscaster Anthony Suntay with Kathleen Chavez and race-car champion Jeff Borja

CYNTHIA and Ramon Picasso of Avis; Tom Zita, chair of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Phils.; (far right) debonaire Symon Birdle, vice president, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts; Ruth Velasco-Co; and Shangri-La Makati's popular GM, Jarlath Lynch

# Running in Circles

CHRISTOPHER Vidal, Raul Manzano, Josine Elizalde, Annie Sarthou and Marietta Santos

WORLD-CLASS designer Pitoy Moreno, businessman Johnny Valdez, mega architect and art connoisseur Gerry Contreras and renowned international photographer Rupert Jacinto

THE MAKATI Shangri-La launched recently its Circles Event Café. It was a night of absolute splendor, a night of spectacular dining and fantastic entertainment, *palanggas*.

The result of a massive six-month renovation project, Circles is now a groundbreaking model of gourmet dining in the busy-busy central business district of Makati. Thus, its unveiling became an event epicenter attended by hot-hot-shots from Cosmo Manille's glitzy sociedad.

**WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH**

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

The guests were amazed by the grandeur of the lobby, which was a brilliant sight to behold, as gorgeous drapes cascaded down the lobby, surrounding an azure circular cocktail bar that welcomed them in lavish fashion.

Abundance and perfection were in constant harmony that night, dahlings, as different varieties of sparkling wines and tons of Moet & Chandon champagne poured like forever, to drown the delectable yummy canapes that were served by the waiters, who were eye-catchers in their stylish outfits with fabulous Circles accessory.

Then, at last, the intriguing mystery of Circles Event Café was unmasked. The sprawling Art Deco interiors were breathtaking, *palanggas*. At the entrance, one could catch a glimpse of the restaurant's grandeur, while a B. Jane Cowie glass sculpture glistened for all of us to marvel at.

Farther inside the awesome dining area were gorgeous marble floorings, wool carpets, intricate furnishings and frosted glass columns.

The gastronomic showcase had five impressive theater kitchens, each station brimming with its own distinctive character, plus state-of-the-art technology, such as the "light-emitting diodes," which filled ceiling gaps with streams of light that gradually changes in color.

And beyond the huge glass windows of the resto, one couldn't help but admire the natural

RUNNING/ G33

BERNHARD Wimmer of Makati Shangri-La and Ms Body Beautiful Cory Quirino

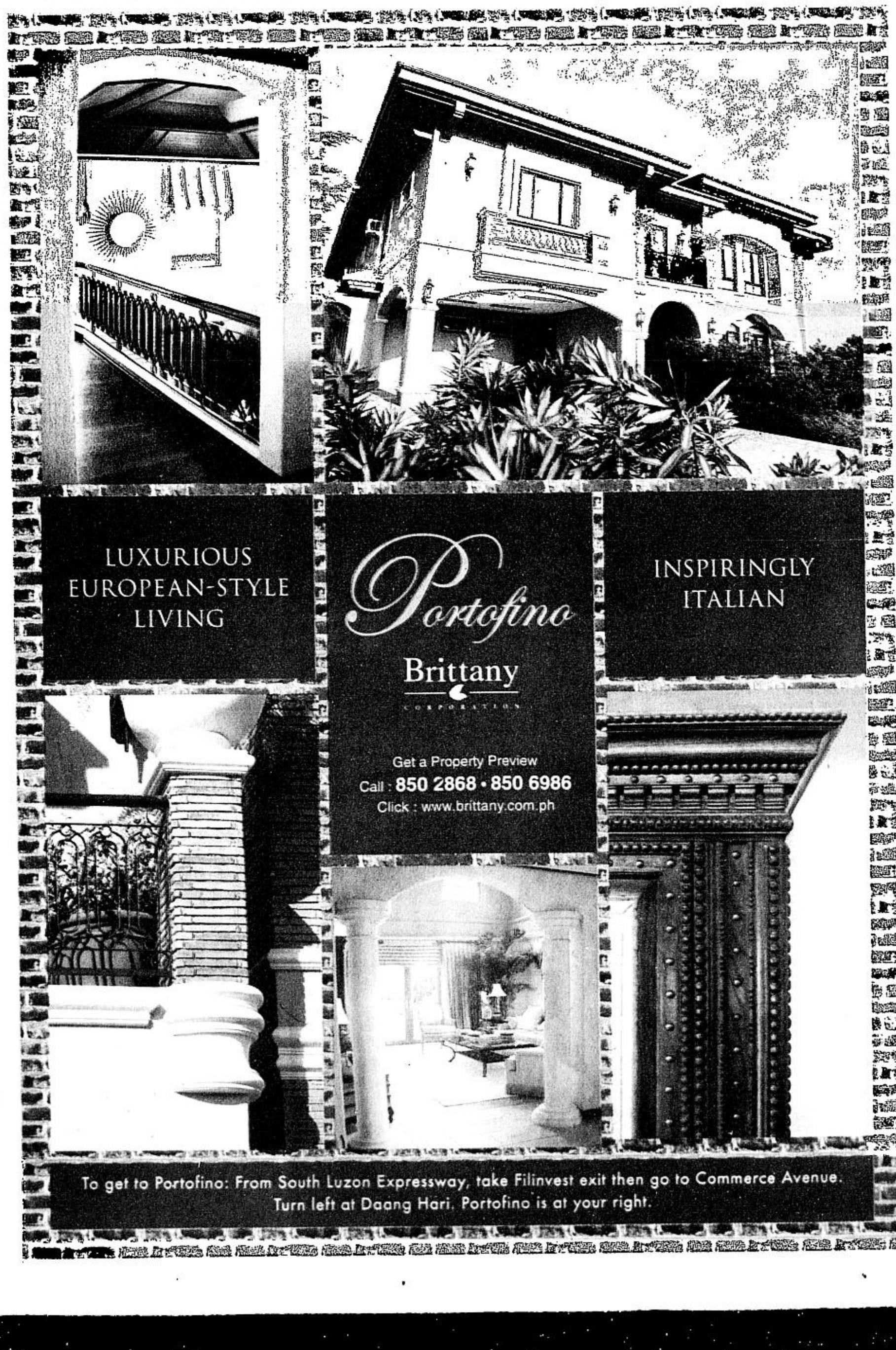
MAKATI Shangri-La's sales coordinator Edith Rodis and director of communications Joy Wassmer

CRAIG Reines, general manager of Teletech, and wife Holly

Receive the gift of love this Christmas!
Simbang Gabi
at SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS
7:30 pm, December 15 to 23
5th Floor, Bridgeway, Megamall Bldg. B

| Dec. | Celebrating Priests: |
|---|---|
| 15 - Wed. | - Rev. Fr. Victor Ray T. Pascual, L.R.M.S. |
| 16 - Thurs. | - Msgr. Hubert Mylo C. Vergara |
| 17 - Fri. | - Rev. Fr. Joel O. Jason |
| 18 - Sat. | - Rev. Fr. Nolan A. Que |
| 19 - Sun. | - Rev. Msgr. Roberto C. Canlas |
| 20 - Mon. | - Rev. Fr. Genaro O. Diwa |
| 21 - Tues. | - Rev. Fr. Mario S. Sobrejuanite, S.S.P. |
| 22 - Wed. | - Rev. Fr. Peterson O. Tieng, L.R.M.S. |
| 23 - Thurs. | - Msgr. Esteban U. Lo, L.R.M.S. |





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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

We destroy heroes as fast as we make them;
frustration with this county can lead to terminal stress

FERNANDO Poe Jr.

# No short supply of good men

STROKE can kill and unrequited love of country can kill even more. That thought comes to mind with FPJ's death. Sometimes, you tell yourself, heart-breaking frustration with this country can lead to terminal stress.

LIFE-STYLED

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

I have no first-hand knowledge what sort of condition FPJ was in when he suffered that stroke. He surely had a high-risk lifestyle, exacerbated no doubt by the stress, pressures—ruthlessness in general—of the presidential election campaign. He had had a brutally busy year, the political nature of which he had never seen imposed on his legendary life before. It was a year that ended in defeat.

He was a folk hero who faced defeat. Surely that's a heartbreak that could kill. Life is actually shorter than we were made to believe.

But for the rest of us what's even more heartbreaking is the realization that this country is not in short supply of good men who want to right things for the country, ill-advised some of them may be.

FPJ was one of them. He wasn't a saint, for sure, but if accounts of him were to be believed, he reached a point in his life when he believed, or he was made to believe, that he could make a difference in the country, if not save it—no matter the skills he had or did not have to do it. It wasn't as easy as he thought, he must have found out, as many did before him and many others will find out.

Like FPJ, however, the many good men out there get swallowed up if not cheated by our damaged institutions. That's the sad part.

We destroy heroes as fast as we make them. Perhaps, for a change, we should try looking for—and nurturing—just the good men in our midst. That's a good enough start for a country that's been obsessed with heroes—from show biz to politics.

## Icon of dysfunction

While watching "Bridget Jones," we were telling ourselves, I can't believe I fell for this again, but we did. We knew it'd be the same girl-gets-her-man yarn, but we watched it anyway, as many girls did and even guys, perhaps with a gun to their head, who otherwise couldn't sit through a chick flick.

There came the expected Bridget's fumblings and binges, the Hugh Grant-Colin Firth brawl—the tried-and-tested formula, in short, and yet, we laughed again.

What makes Bridget Jones click again and again is the fact that she is so post-modern—your anti-glam heroine in an age when media indoctrinate women into thinking and living that glamour and style are all there is.

She is no fashionista, wears a full-size undie when it's thong-or-die for many girls,

NO SHORT/ H4

San Miguel Super Coffeemix Company, Inc. is a joint venture between San Miguel Purefoods Company, Inc. and Super Coffeemix Manufacturing Ltd. of Singapore.

The INQUIRER Character Quest

Many have dared to be discovered and exposed but **only 30** get a shot at making it to the Final 6 Characters.

You can help us decide who's in and who's out.

Vote the FINAL SIX

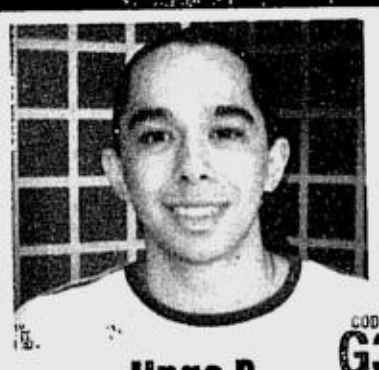
Online or SMS

Character to be filled:
**GIAN**
Occupation:
Engineering Student/Bartender
Age range:
20 to 25 years old
Profile:
Driven and ambitious, Gian may not be in the big league now but he expects to be. A working student, he sees everything he does now as a mere stepping stone to his future. Known to be goal-oriented, Gian relies on gut feel and will not hesitate to use brawn over brains to get what he wants.

AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF GIAN?

CODE G1
Frederick O.

CODE G2
Ian A.



CODE G3
Jingo P.

CODE G4
Miguel A.

CODE G5
Paulo S.

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TEXT YOUR VOTE
Simply text ICQ <character code> <your name> <your age> and send to 09209131658.

OR GO ONLINE AT
www.characterquest.com

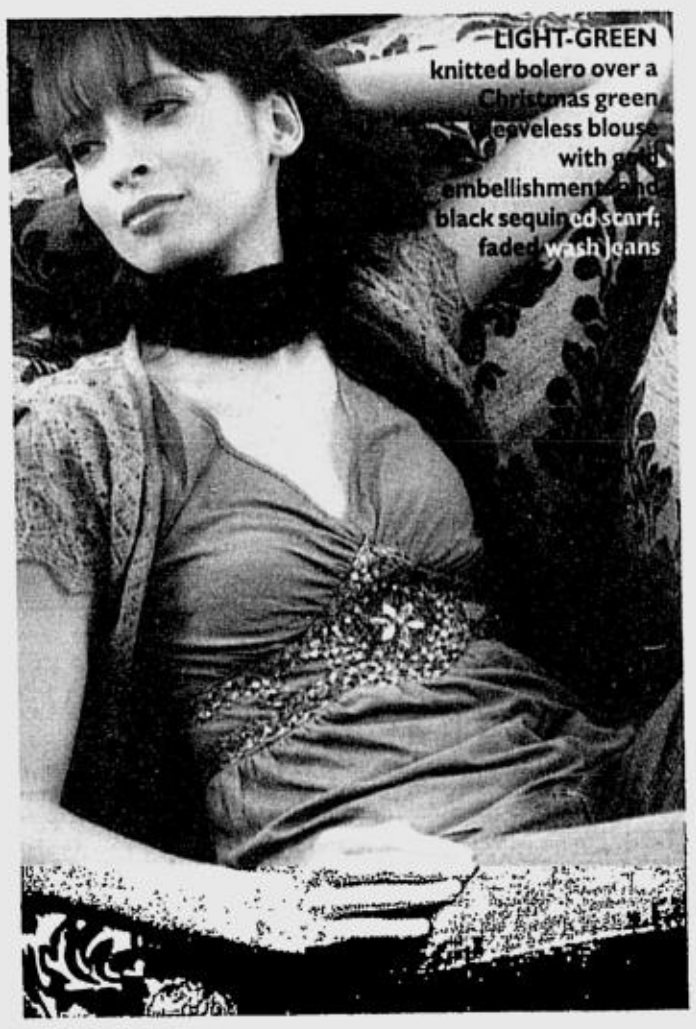
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

VELVET purple haltered top with narrow purple scarf, burgundy hat and bag with gold sequins; corduroy plum skirt

ON HIM: black blazer with crisp long-sleeved polo and black sleeveless inner shirt; black flat front pants with black leather belt. On her: teal stretch haltered top paired with a pinstriped navy-blue blazer; white, flared pants and black leather belt with diamond-studded buckle

MODELS: NICOLETTE BELL AND LUKE JICKAIN
SHOT IN PINEAPPLE- LEVEL 1 GREENBELT 3, AYALA CENTER;
KISH- LEVEL 2 GREENBELT 3, AYALA CENTER
STYLED BY TAMARA TAN OF TOPSHOP

# Top of the Yuletide line



LIGHT-GREEN knitted bolero over a Christmas green sleeveless blouse with gold embellishments and black sequined scarf; faded wash jeans

TOPSHOP and Topman Christmas 2004 Collection enhances the holiday luster with a fashion tableau featuring the tones, hues and moods of the Yuletide. The styles include:

**Bejewelled.** For Christmas dinner, wear a simple chiffon evening dress embellished with pure emerald shots of sea-green or lime and bluish white azure. Emphasize the neck and hemlines with colored stone sequins and beaded rims. Fasten coats with decorative clasps and jeweled or black leather belt.

For daytime parties, opt for knitted vests, cardigans and jackets. Accentuate taupe, warm beige or dark green shawl or muffs with soft blouses to create a relaxed contour.

**Studio 54.** Try a '70s inspired mix of a playful high glamour set against strong, masculine cuts. Wear subdued emerald, white and gold worn against sober dark metallic palette, platform shoes, skinny beaded scarf is ideal especially those with voluminous hair to complete the high gloss, sophisticated and sassy disco-look.

**Biba.** Inspired by and named after the late '60s label, this draws upon plush fabrics, theatrical silhouettes and rich, tonal colors, ideal for theme parties and other shindigs that are out-of-the-ordinary.

Here are gift ideas: Buy 2 Knickers worth P245 for only P395; or buy 2 Knickers worth P295 for only P495. Buy 1 Kate vest or 1 single Jersey Crewneck or 1 Stretch Tee and get the second one at 30 percent off! Give Topshop Gift Certificate, available in P500 denomination (also valid at Dorothy Perkins).

Topshop is in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 2, Rockwell Power Plant Mall and Alabang Town Center. Topman stores are in Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila.

ON HER. WHITE haltered silk blouse with diamond embellishments and black knitted shawl; denim ultra miniskirt with black leather belt and diamond-studded buckle. On him: black blazer over a light-blue tie-dye shirt and black hat. On him: light-blue ton jeans with khaki belt

# *Holiday style in earthy colors*

V-NECK long sleeved dress with matching lamai pants, copper, trimmed with gold ribbon, is just the thing for a Christmas party.

RUSTAN'S fashion maven Criselda Lontok has come up with a holiday collection that's all about subtle elegance and style, with rich fabrics, subdued hues and classic cuts.

Coppers, browns and blacks dominate the collection—an interesting deviation from the usual holiday colors. Perfect for evening gatherings, each piece is crafted using fabrics such as lamai and organza and is accentuated minimally.

Criselda offers an asymmetrical dark brown embroidered top in organza with skin tone lining that could be matched with a black uneven bias skirt.

Also available is a V-neck long sleeved dress with matching lamai pants in copper, trimmed with a gold ribbon befitting the Christmas season. Matching the pants with a plain black top will create a totally new ensemble.

Complete the look with this season's Criselda heels bedecked with stones, beadwork or flower décor.

Criselda is exclusively available at Rustan's, the country's premier lifestyle hub.

CRISELDA deviates from the usual holiday colors with coppers, browns and blacks in the new collection.

# Quartz perpetual time

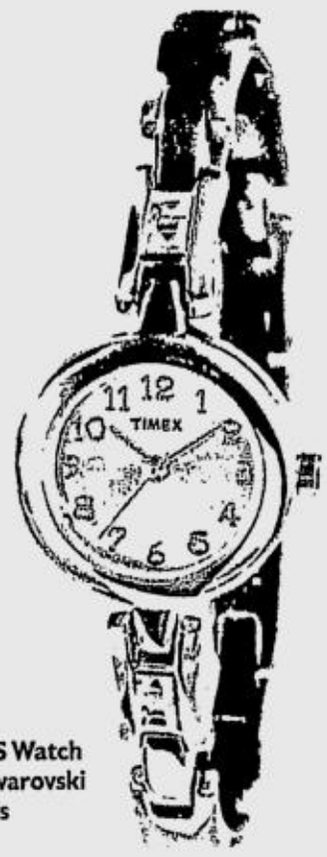
LEADING American watch maker Timex breaks all time barriers with its quartz version of the perpetual watch.

The Perpetual Calendar Collection separates the mechanisms for the date from the time. When you change the time, this signals the date to change automatically as well. This means you can just adjust the time (when you go to a different time zone, for example) and the date will follow.

Other new innovations from Timex include the revolutionary E-Compass Watch. The compass itself is electronically driven and has a fourth hand that acts as the compass needle. Other features are the Quick Date function and Indiglo Night Light.

Timex celebrates 150 years of precision watch making, and continues to innovate to create feature-rich watches with elegant designs and unmatched convenience and excellence.

PERPETUAL
Calendar Watch



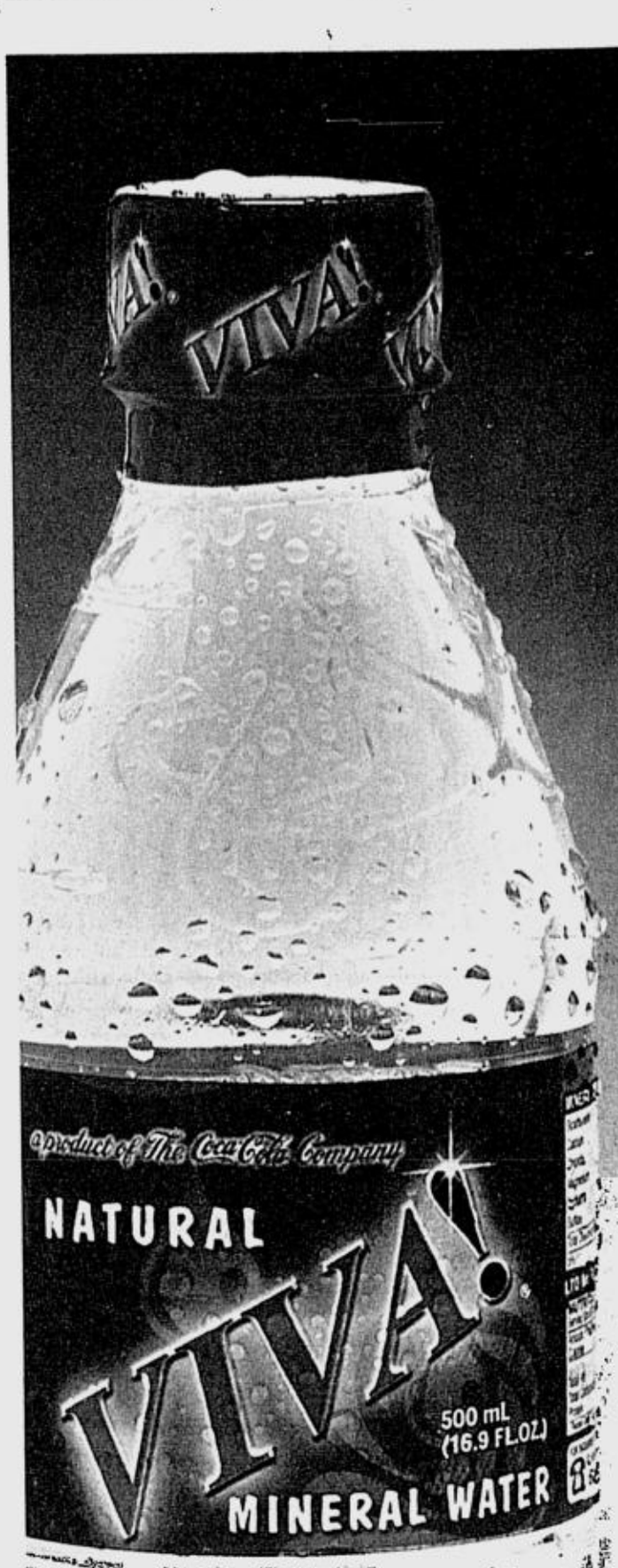
LADIES Watch
with Swarovski
Crystals

E-COMPASS

LADIES Watch
with Swarovski
Crystals 3

EURO Chrono
Expedition
Watch

LADIES Classic
Watch 2

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The INQUIRER Character Quest

Many have dared to be discovered and exposed but **only 30** get a shot at making it to the Final 6 Characters.

You can help us decide who's in and who's out.

Vote the FINAL SIX

Online or SMS

Character to be filled:
**JENG**
Occupation:
Nursing Student
Age range:
18 to 23 years old
Profile:
Sensitive and vulnerable, Jeng falls in and out of love easily, and gets hurt and affected just as easily. She immerses herself completely in all her relationships everything for the sake of love. Jeng is the type of person other people protect or love to take care of.

AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF JENG?

CODE J1
Danielle M.

CODE J2
Ivy R.

CODE J3
Karyn Y.

CODE J4
Michelle P.

CODE J5
Mitzie J.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE NOW!
TEXT YOUR VOTE
Simply text ICQ <character code> <your name> <your age> and send to 09209131658.

OR GO ONLINE AT
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# No short supply of good men

From page H1

comes from a dysfunctional family, has weight issues. And—we love this scene—she has a big *puson* that bulges out of a skin-tight gown. She even sneaks a puff while her boyfriend snoozes.

For a change it's refreshing to watch a Hollywood icon who's not pitching, if subliminally, a fashion brand on screen, or who's not decked in a brand from head to toe.

The whole thing is formulaic, but is funny nonetheless because she is as dysfunctional as you and I (or should I speak for myself?)

And—we could use a happy ending in this killer-pace season.

## Tutu-dancing at Government

Speaking of the holiday season, the party momentum is in high gear, regardless of year-end deficits. The fashionista crowd is still talking about that night at Government.

For those not in the know, Government has nothing to do with GMA et al, it's the club preferred by many of our trendy gay friends these days.

Government is not only for gays though (I like the way that sounds). It used to be Orange. Anyway, that was where the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines, the PMAP (models), Young Designers Group and Robbie Carmona's Saga had their hilarious Christmas party last week. The show should go down in fashionista history because it had many recent firsts, like: Vic Barba did the tap dance superbly; Randy Ortiz and Jackie Aquino, while not exactly underweight and nimble, did a rousing "Aldeguer Sisters" number; and the rest of the designers danced the "ballet" in red tutus (imagine the tall Tonichi No'com in them), with Rajo Laurel grabbing the limelight.

Too bad, we weren't there, but Romina Ufra described the scene to us graphically enough.

## Pregnant pose

Pregnancy is suddenly chic, thanks to style setters like Romina, Leica Carpo, Tessa Valdes and Jeena Lopez. These pregnant women have the looks and the right style quotient to bare their tummies—in varying stages of pregnancy: really big for Romina, medium-bulge for Leica, and hardly noticeable for Tessa and Jeena. They showed up at Metro Wear in glam evening wear that allowed you a peek at their tummy.

Romina was in a Rajo Laurel moss-green brocade coat unbuttoned sufficiently to reveal her bulge wrapped in lace bandeau, with low-rise black pants to complete the look. Of course, she was able to pull it off.

Unwittingly perhaps these young mothers are starting a dare-to-bare trend among stylish pregnant women. Pregnancy has never been this adoringly fashionable.

STYLISH flip-flops

## *Inexpensive gift ideas*

PUT the fun back into your Christmas shopping with this handy guide from The P99 Store, the country's pioneer "one-price" concept store.

Moms will fall in love with stainless steel fruit baskets and wine bottle holders, while dads have more wardrobe options with casual shirts, shorts and belts that come in different colors and styles.

Sisters will have a grand time primping themselves up with trendy silver rings, earrings, necklaces, bangles and bracelets. Kid brothers will look hip in muscle shirts and sunglasses.

And don't forget *lolo* and *lola*. Give them elegant wine glasses and functional kitchen ware.

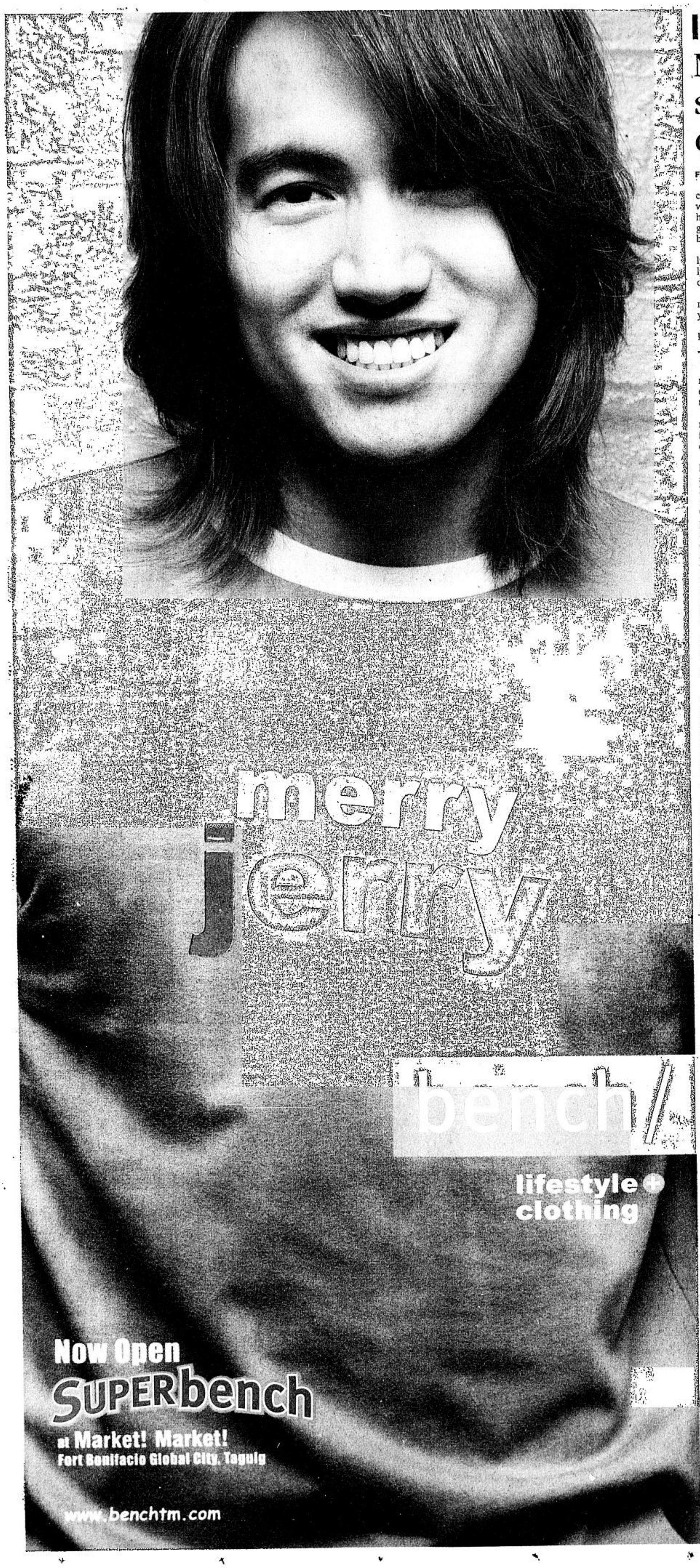
Your aunts and uncles, meanwhile, will smell fresh all day with colognes and body mists in various scents.

For that special person in your life, give him or her casual crew neck shirts in various colors, and a choice of blouses, skirts and pants that are just right for casual Fridays and a night of partying.

For the big boss and office colleagues, how about an elegant glass chess set, a desk clock, beaded glass and metal candle holders, CD cases and holders, ceramic candle burners or picture frames?

Your *inaanaks* and *pamangkins* will also have endless hours of fun and excitement with colorful, cuddly stuffed toys and other kiddie items.

Check out any of the 30 branches of The P99 Store for great and inexpensive gift ideas.



# Natural à la mode

Kakuyasu Uchide, Shu Uemura's handsome chief makeup artist, shows why Reveries can be fleeting

KAKUYASU Uchide at work (top left)

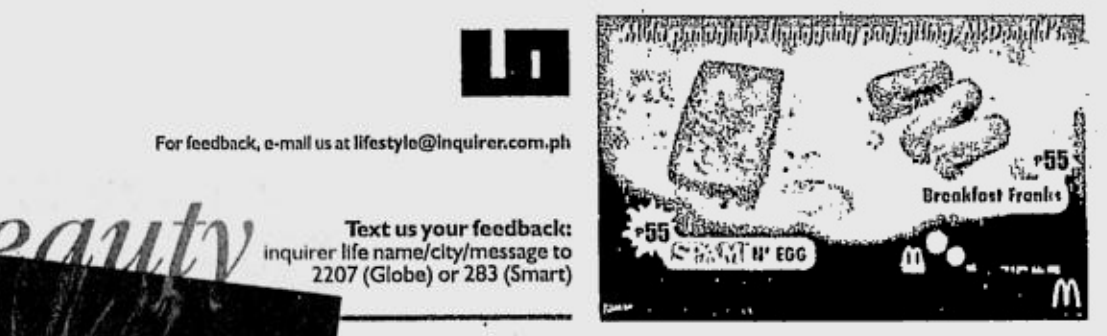
Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

LEADING Japanese makeup brand Shu Uemura has derived inspiration from the iridescent quality of water for Reveries, its latest mode makeup line for next spring and summer. Natural colors inspired by the earth's pristine environment shimmer with a pearlized quality that highlights the face and imparts it with a soft, lyrical expression.

Kakuyasu Uchide, Shu Uemura International's chief makeup artist, flew in recently from Tokyo to explain the concept to makeup junkies and the brand's loyalists. Such a conceptual approach veered from the usual practice of pushing a certain look or palette of colors.

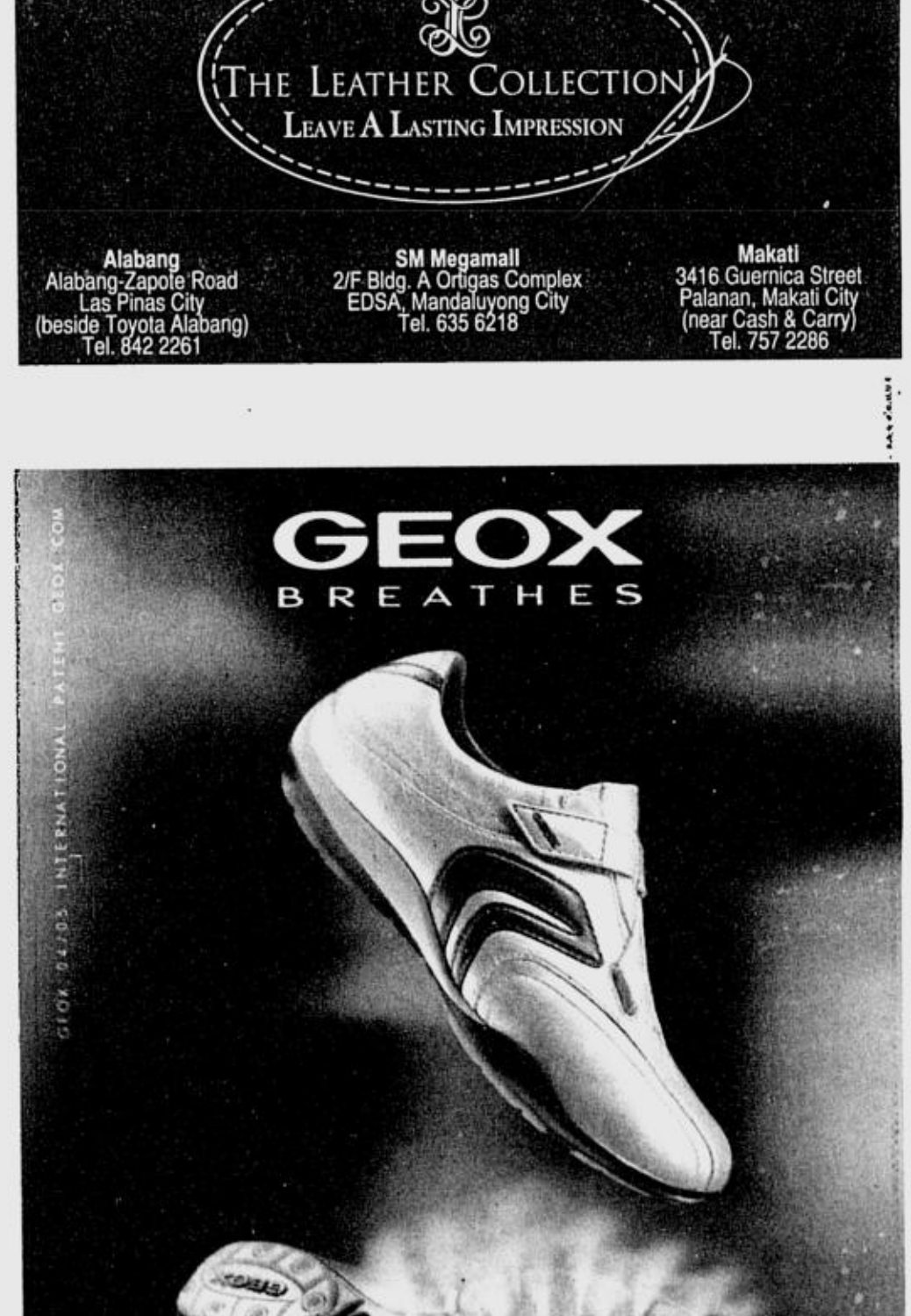
And unlike most makeup artists from other brands, Uchide didn't focus on a facial feature of the moment either. He's more than just an

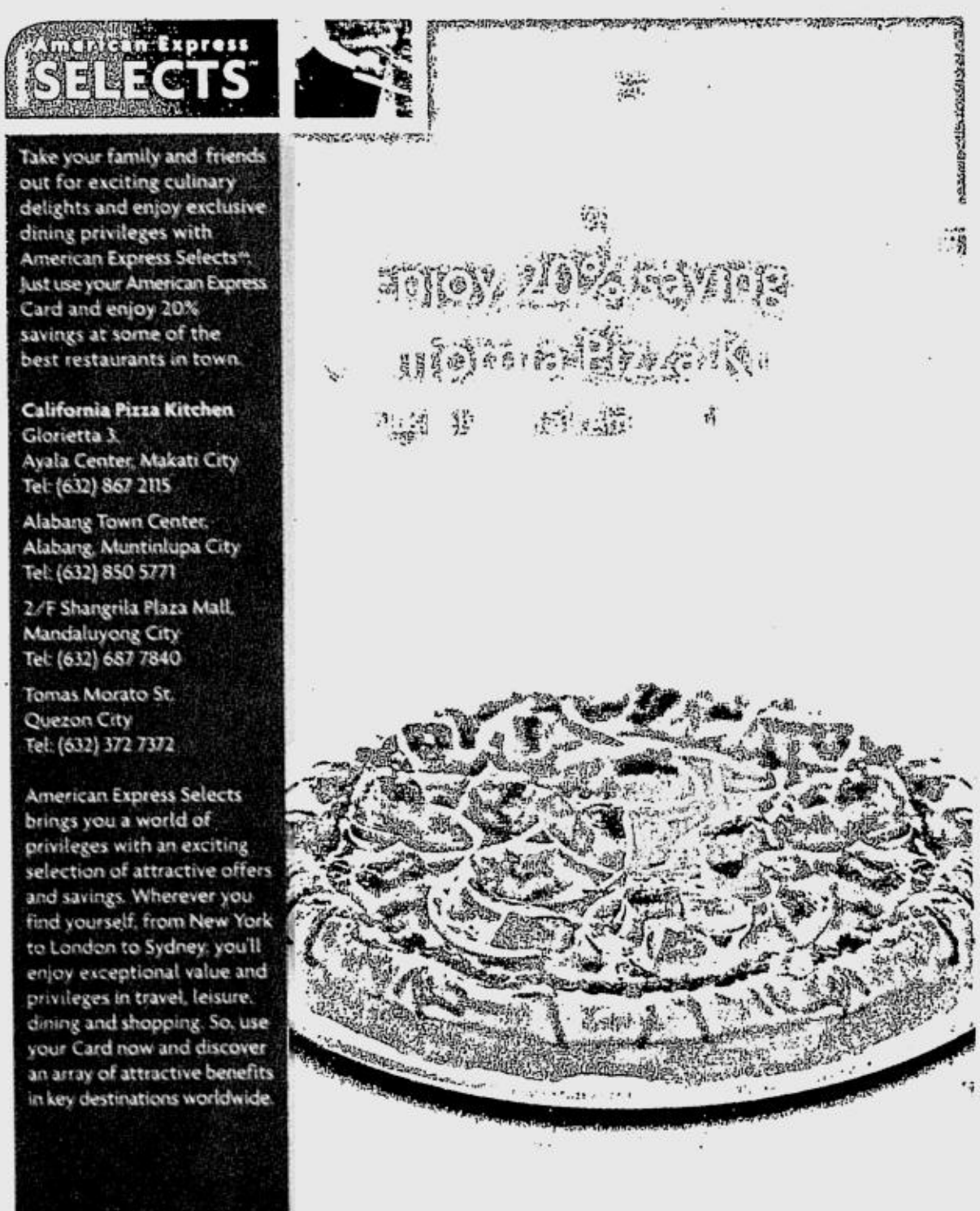
NATURAL/ I2



For discounts, freebies, perks and fun.

KANCHIKU Oceanic 1911 BEACH RESORT



The INQUIRER Character Quest

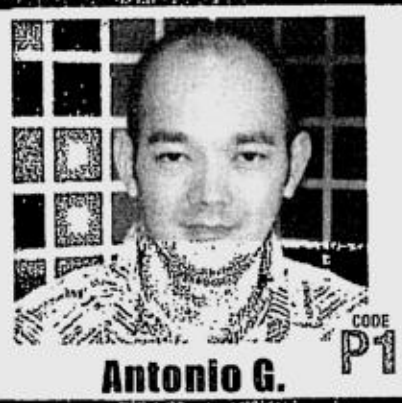
Many have dared to be discovered and exposed but **only 30** get a shot at making it to the Final 6 Characters.

You can help us decide who's in and who's out.

Vote the FINAL SIX Online or SMS

Character to be filled:
**PIPO**
Occupation:
Head of Security
Age range:
38 to 45 years old
Profile:
Pipo is a loving father and a righteous man who showed much potential in his younger years. May not be too showy when it comes to his own affections but is easily affected by the things that go on around him. Quiet and reserved, Pipo embodies the expression "still water runs deep".

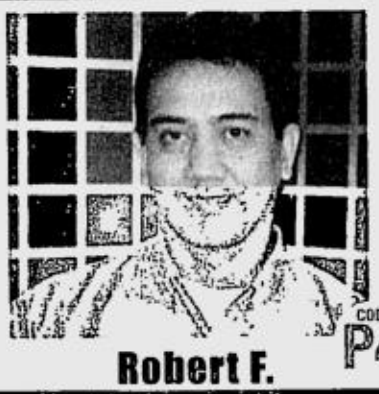
AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF PIPO?



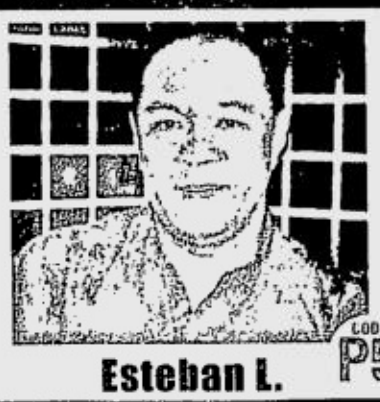
CODE P1
Antonio G.

CODE P2
Arnel B.

CODE P3
Larry G.



CODE P4
Robert F.



CODE P5
Esteban L.

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OR GO ONLINE AT
www.characterquest.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FOR THE FANTASY finish, the last look for the shoot, Shu Uemura's Xeng Zulueta uses almost all shades from the Reveries collection.

UCHIDE'S version of Eastern enchantment is from the Chic and Rouge line: 744 foundation, colorless loose powder and Luster Gold powder as base; Purple 755, glow-on blush in Orange 55 and pressed eye shadow in Gold 365 on the eyes and cheeks; and Rouge 4 lipstick in 135 topped with lip gloss in Amber Gold for pouty lips.

# Natural à la mode


From page 11


"ambassador of beauty," as he considers himself an artist in the mold of his mentor and company founder Shu Uemura.

The handsome Uchide, who still looks youthful at 39, joined the company 16 years ago after finishing a degree in—of all courses—pre-law. He joined Shu Uemura as an entry point in a career in fashion, which was then a booming industry in Japan. Like most men, he wasn't inclined to do makeup until he met the man behind the brand.

Being one among the first batch of fresh grads recruited to join the company, Uchide and his group naturally became Uemura's sounding board as the old man worked on infusing the brand with young blood. Unlike most seasoned artists, he continues to value and welcome fresh ideas. The admiration was mutual, as the apprentice found himself slowly being drawn to the once alien but lovely world of makeup.

Is he, well, gay? Perish the thought. Uchide is aware that "99 percent" of male makeup artists around the world are. In Japan, however, only 50 percent fall in that category. That's how forward-looking Japanese men are. Not that he has anything against his more colorful colleagues, but Uchide insists he's straight.

Not once has he been mistaken for a gay, at least not to his face. If that happens, Uchide says he'll merely laugh it off. If you're still in doubt, however, you can ask his Japanese girlfriend for 11 years. The couple has been living together for some years now.

"Doing makeup has nothing to do with sexuality," he says in Japanese. "You're enriching yourself and the people around you when you create something beautiful. I consider it my small contribution to making the world a better place by helping create beautiful things that can bring pleasure to other people."

## No spin-offs

An artist naturally begets art. Thus, no spin-offs are likely to come from this latest collection, the 120th edition since Uemura introduced the mode makeup line in the 1960s. The line, which is sold for a limited time only, is different from the brand's extensive array of regular eye shadows, lipsticks, blushers and nail polish that now number in the hundreds.

"The mode makeup line is usually based on a theme that Mr. Uemura and his team came up with," says Tina Tinio, Shu Uemura's brand manager in the Philippines. "They feel that this theme best represents the mood for the coming year. As far as they're concerned, there are no rules when it comes to mood makeup."

And what exactly is this mood all about? Since the inspiration comes from water and how light is reflected on it, luminous colors were designed to change hues depending on the angle of the face and how light falls on it. These are no radical colors, mind you. The difference, says Tinio, is in the new product's texture.

"Part of my job," says Uchide, "is also to formulate the products. The mode makeup's inspiration for next year will definitely come from colors naturally found on earth. There will be less of the artificial colors and more of greens, blues, beiges and yellows that remind us of nature."

And rightly so since every mode makeup line is as ephemeral as the fleeting scenes of the changing seasons. Not that Tinio and company want to induce panic buying, but most of the products from past mode makeup collections were never reissued despite a demand. Unlike the seasons, once they're gone, they're gone forever.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

FOR THE BLUSHING bride, Zulueta uses *morena*-friendly colors such as Metallic Yellow and Metallic gold eye shadows, Orange 55 on the cheeks, Rouge 4 and Jasmine Gold on the lips.

RADIANT reflection, Uchide's second look, is from the Reveries line: same base, Blue 645, Green 512 and Yellow 327 on the eye area; Pink 30A on the cheeks for a feminine look; Lolishine Rouge 361 and Blue Eye-Light pencil to color and line the lips.

CORPORATE chic finds our model wearing Zulueta's take on office basics: Metallic Yellow and Metallic Gold on the eyes; Orange 55 for a sun-kissed look on the cheeks; and Rouge 4 570 and Jasmine Gold on the lips.

MAKEUP: KAKUYASU UCHIDE, SHU UEMURA INTERNATIONAL CHIEF MAKEUP ARTIST
ASSISTED BY: XENG ZULUETA OF SHU UEMURA
HAIR: ROBBIE PINERA
CLOTHES: LILY, CRISELDA, VISE VERSA AND DETOUR
MODEL: CHRIZENDA CECILIO OF CAL CARRIE'S
SPECIAL THANKS TO MAKATI SHANGRI-LA

# Christmas musicale at Paco Park

PACO Park Presents features "In a Christmas Mood" today. Performers include Sherla Najera and Mary Ann Lanuzo (soprano); Agnes Barredo (mezzo soprano); Paul Aquino (baritone); Sheen Sanchez (tenor); Marian San Miguel (violin); and Richelle Rivera (piano). Admission is free.

## GOINGS ON

**WORKSHOP.** The Ontario Center for Skills and Livelihood will conduct a workshop on Dec. 18 and 19 about How to Make Decorative Balloon and Flower Arrangement the Easy Way at the training hall of Smartlink, 2/F La Beda Building, P. Campa St. cor. España, Manila, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 7041763/ 3391952.

**CONCERT.** Concert at the Park features Ecole de Ballet, Manila students, under the artistic direction of Nina Anonas de Santos, on Dec. 19, 5 p.m. Admission is free.

**PROMO.** Robinsons Malls will give away over P2 million in cash and free Coke in can in A Million Times Merrier raffle promo. Qualified shoppers get the chance to get a "scratch coupon" for their purchases. Promo runs until Jan. 18, 2005.

**CONTEST.** The Japan Foundation Manila will hold the Nihongo speech contest on Feb. 19, 2005, 2 p.m., at the College of St. Benilde Theater, Taft Ave., Manila. Deadline for application is on Feb. 1, 2005. Call 8116155 to 58.

**LECTURE.** American cognitive psychologist Dr. Howard Gardner is coming to Manila to give a lecture on how to raise smart children to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The First Philippine Multiple Intelligence Convention will be held Feb. 11-12, 2005 at The Manila Hotel. Call 4334948/ 4334949.

**SEMINAR.** A seminar on Experiencing Flower Essence Therapy is currently offered by Melanie Talag, flower essence practitioner. Call 7262338.

**OPEN FOR FRANCHISE.** Tumble Tots, an international preschool program which started in London and the UK, is now open for franchise. The Joji Ilagan Foundation, Inc. acquired the Philippine territorial license for Tumble Tots last year. Call 6876793.

**SEMINAR.** The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a photo seminar on Jan. 8, 2005 at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, and Feb. 4-7 at the Asian Institute of Management, Makati. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

**PHILIPPINE** Ambassador to Italy Philippe J. Lhuillier and San Marino Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Fabio Berardi recently reaffirmed their mutual commitment to enhance economic and political relations between the two countries.

## Call for extreme stunt challengers

AXN holds the Philippines' first extreme stunt challenge—the Enervon AXN Xtreme—a television event that will dare Pinoys to face off in a series of challenges designed to test their body, mind, spirit, and most of all, the desire to win.

To qualify, interested participants first have to get through a qualification round on Dec. 19, at Rizal Coliseum in Manila, from 9a.m.-3 p.m.

The Enervon AXN Xtreme will also be the first major original television production to be undertaken by AXN in the Philippines.

"This is going to be the biggest programming and production effort ever undertaken by AXN in the Philippines," says Mr. Gregory Ho, AXN's vice president for Marketing and Creative Services.

More details about the event are available on the AXN website www.axn-asia.com. The subsequent broadcast of the original production will premiere Asiawide on AXN in February 2005.

The AXN Xtreme project will subsequently roll out events across the region. AXN has held similar events in Taiwan, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Enervon, the event's main sponsor, is the country's leading multivitamin brand. It has been in the market for more than 30 years, reaching its one billion peso-mark in 2003.

Other major sponsors are Glade Support, San Mig Light and Nokia.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797

E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

The INQUIRER Character Quest

Many have dared to be discovered and exposed but **only 30** get a shot at making it to the Final 6 Characters.

You can help us decide who's in and who's out.

Vote the FINAL SIX Online or SMS

Character to be filled:
**VIVIENNE**
Occupation:
Wedding Planner
Age range:
24 to 32 years old
Profile:
Vivienne is very image conscious and organized. These plus her attention to detail have helped make her the person to tap when planning a social event. Always poised, professional and ever efficient, Vivienne is physically perfect in every aspect but knows how to mask her real feelings.

AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF VIVIENNE?

CODE V1
Angelica C.

CODE V2
Issa G.

CODE V3
Joanna R.

CODE V4
Kharen A.

CODE V5
Suzy G.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE NOW!
TEXT YOUR VOTE
Simply text ICQ <character code> <your name> <your age> and send to 09209131658.
OR GO ONLINE AT www.characterquest.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# UNICEF Flies Emergency Aid to Typhoon Victims

UNICEF/2004/Margallo

UNICEF/2004/Zamora

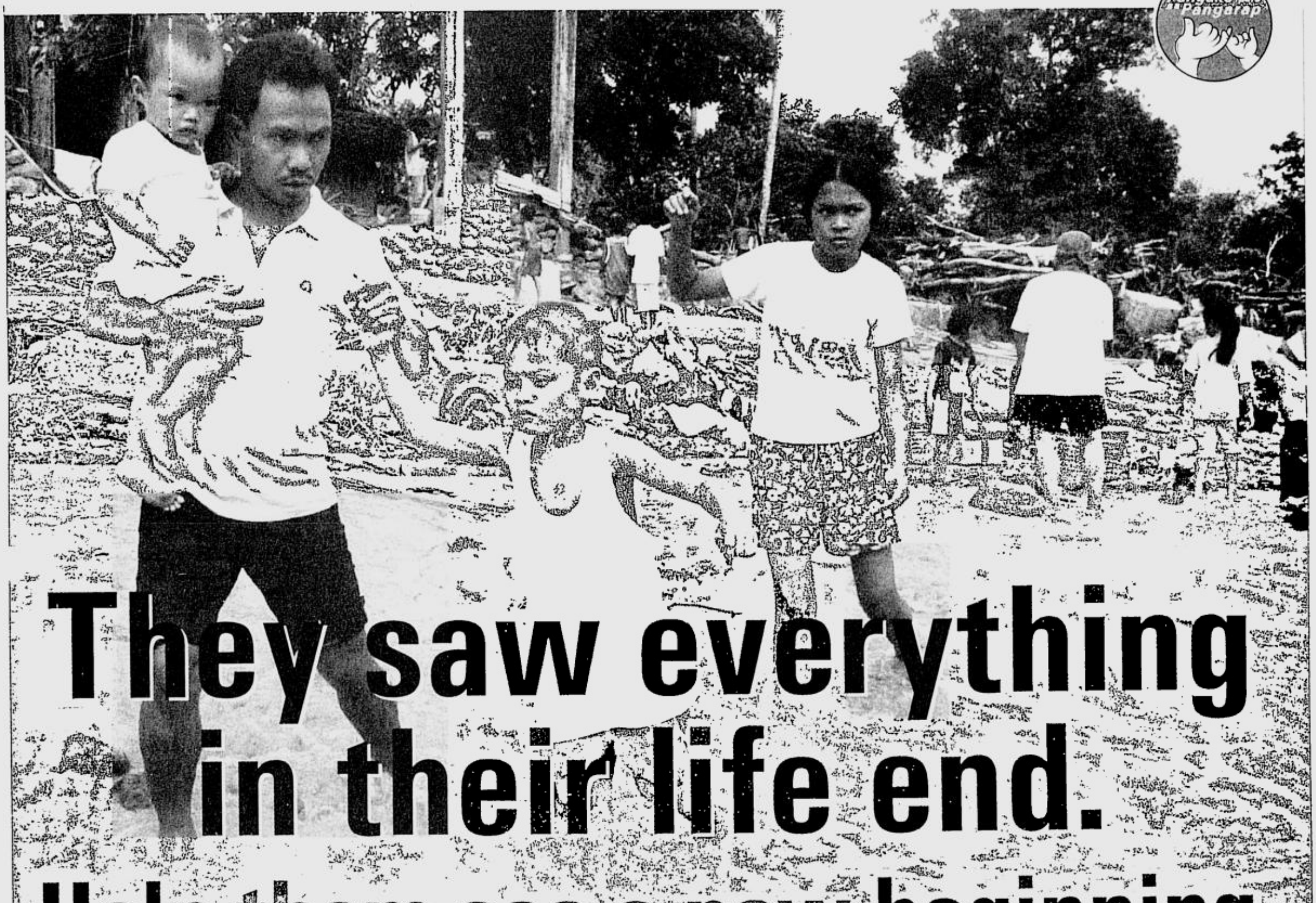
WITHIN 4 days after the onslaught of TyphoonYoyong, UNICEF was flying in emergency aid to Camarines Norte -- a feat made possible by donors who, earlier this year, contributed to the UNICEF Emergency Fund. To ferry the supplies over, local carrier South East Asian Airlines (SeaAir) lent aircraft, while US telecommunications giant Sprint, through its Sprint 10-5-17 Collect to America service, provided funding for the fuel. The immediate help given by the 2 companies allowed UNICEF to quickly fly in much-needed food and medical supplies to the children of Daet and Mercedes in Camarines Norte.

The supplies were just part of the P5.6 million that UNICEF immediately allocated to help Filipino families affected by the typhoons "Violeta," "Winnie," and "Yoyong." Citing the need to act fast, UNICEF Country Representative to the Philippines Dr. Nicholas Alipui pointed out that "Two children have already died of diarrhea in one evacuation center in Camarines Norte, and many more are dehydrated." Dr. Alipui added that, "The most common problems during floods are diarrhea and dysentery. Due to crowded and damp surroundings, many children also have flu and chest infections, accompanied with fever. A malaria outbreak is also highly possible." The recent natural calamities are estimated to have affected over 345,000 children.

UNICEF has also started distributing P5.6 million worth of relief goods, which include food, shelter, clothing, and medicines. The emergency relief of women and children who have lost their homes and belongings is UNICEF's first priority. Working with local government officials in the affected areas, UNICEF distributed canned foodstuffs, critical medicines, and family care packs providing essential survival materials which include cooking utensils, clothes, plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets and water containers. UNICEF also provided anti-diarrheal, anti-pyretic, anti-biotics for respiratory infections (including pneumonia) and anti-malarial drugs, as well as oral rehydration salts.

Aside from providing much-needed emergency aid to the affected communities, UNICEF is also now focusing on what will happen to the children – their health, their shelter, their schooling – in the next six months. About 13% of the funds allocated by Unicef will be used to provide basic materials such as chairs, desks, notebooks, crayons, books, backpacks, educational toys and learning materials. According to Dr. Alipui, "These simple inexpensive items can mean the difference between a child who will continue to go to school in spite of the devastation, and a child who will drop out."

The combination of emergency relief, and long-term rehabilitation programmess, that UNICEF is undertaking in the provinces hit by calamities is just one aspect of UNICEF's presence here in the Philippines. All donations to the UNICEF Emergency Fund will go to help Filipino victims now and in the future. Funds raised through its *Pangako para sa Pangarap* Pledge Program, on the other hand, will be used to fund its many long-term country-wide programmes for Filipino children.




# They saw everything in their life end.

# Help them see a new beginning.

UNICEF/2004/Martinez

**☑ Yes, I want to help typhoon victims rebuild their lives.**

- ☐ P500 can provide two families of six with basic dinnerware or utensils
- ☐ P1,000 can provide a t-shirt, a pair of pants and a pair of slippers each to 9 displaced children
- ☐ P2,000 can provide school bags for 10 displaced children and replenish their lost school materials (basic school supplies)
- ☐ P3,000 can provide four families with cooking and kitchen utensils
- ☐ P4,000 can provide play and recreational materials for 85 children
- ☐ P12,000 can provide one School-in-a-Box kit, a makeshift classroom setup with school supplies good for 80 students
- ☐ P24,000 can provide essential drugs to a community of about 20,000 people
- ☐ P50,000 can provide a t-shirt, a pair of pants and a pair of slippers each to 462 displaced children
- ☐ P100,000 can provide 188 families some warmth and protection in temporary shelter (shelter materials)
- ☐ OR, I would like to pledge a monthly donation of P _____ for UNICEF's Emergency Fund.

**UNICEF needs your help, so we can help rebuild lives today. You can send your much-needed donation through any of the following ways:**

**BY FAX:** We will accept donations through credit card. Simply fill out this form, and fax to **901-0195.**

**HOTLINE: 758-1000**

**ON-LINE:** *(NEW)* **www.unicef.org/philippines**

**BAYAD CENTER :** *(NEW)* We accept donations through any Bayad Center.

Please charge my credit card.

☐ VISA ☐ Amex
☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners
☐ BPI ☐ RCBC/JCB

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ (Mo. / Yr.)

☐☐☐ CVV2/CVC2 (last three digits printed on signature panel at the reverse side of card for VISA/Amex/MasterCard only)

Signature _____ (Important)

Nickname _____

**Your Full Name** _____ (Title / First / MI / Last — Please write your complete name and address so UNICEF can send your Official Receipt.)

**Mailing Address** ☐ Home ☐ Office

_____ (No. / Street / Town/Municipality)

_____ (City/Province / Zip Code)

Telephone Numbers (Please put your daytime phone numbers)

Residence _____

Business _____

Fax _____

Birthdate _____

E-mail Address _____

☐ **I would like to help UNICEF save on printing and postage costs and would like to receive future updates on UNICEF programmes through my email address.**

unicef

**For more information: Call UNICEF Hotline: 758-1000. Or visit the website: www.unicef.org/philippines**

# Christmas Shopping

# Light up your 'parol'

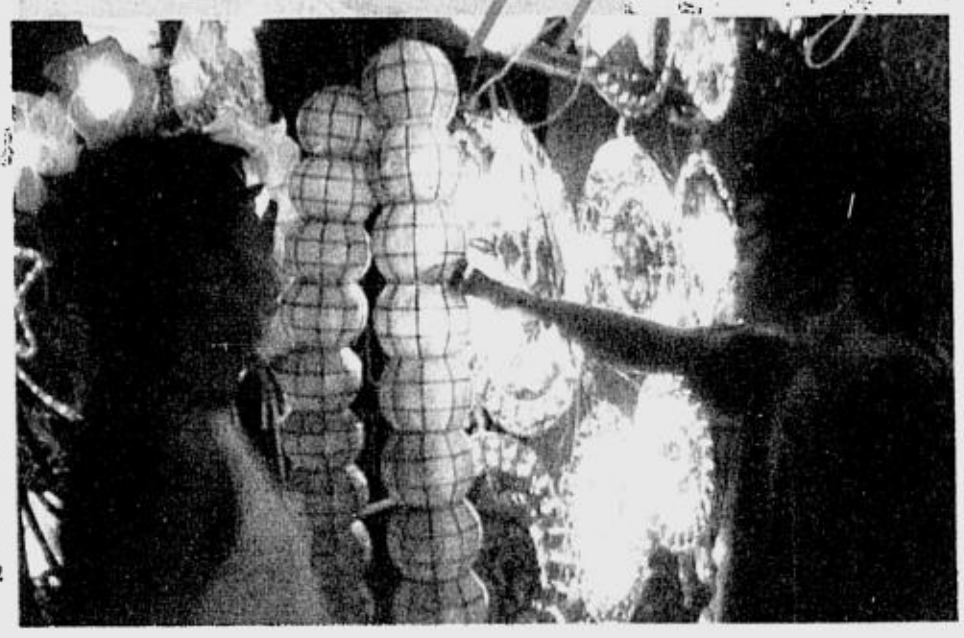
By Marlet D. Salazar

FROM SIMPLE to elaborate. The *parol* (Christmas lantern) has evolved from simple and traditional into a more detailed, complicated star with colorful designs. The significance of the *parol* in the Christmas season has also inspired an annual lantern festival in Pampanga.

Most houses seem not complete without a *parol* hanging by the window or doorway. Sometimes, it stays there for a year in time for the next Yuletide season. The colors amaze passersby. The lights illuminate the streets. It signals the start of a festive season, and generates a festive mood.

The traditional native *parol*, as some

LIGHT/J2




It's a Children's Christmas at the Shang

In keeping with tradition, Shangri-La Plaza's Christmas decor is once again one of the Mall's attractions for this holiday season: a true spectacle for the entire family. Dedicated to children with a theme aptly tagged as "It's a Children's Christmas at the Shang", the spectacular decor includes a gigantic 45-foot Christmas tree strategically located in Level 1 of the Mall. Adorned with gold ribbons and Christmas balls in pastel colors, as well as ice cream cones, gingerbread men, teddy bears, lollipops, hearts and golden stars, the tree is placed on top of a 7-foot-high lighted base in bright pastel colors featuring an animation of different scenes about children from around the world.

At the Grand Atrium, hanging from the ceiling directly above the fountain is a large colorful globe with an encircling ribbon with the words "It's A Children's Christmas." Around the globe are figures of children from various countries holding gift boxes. There are also figures of children's favorites like giant teddy bears, toy train, gingerbread men, ice cream cones, toy airplanes and brightly colored lollipops. Adding to the festive atmosphere are Tivoli lights and lighted pastel colored stars.

Another centerpiece is a giant scroll with the phrase "Merry Christmas" in different languages. The scroll has lighted stars and miniature versions of some of the hanging decors from the ceiling with a checkerboard motif in various pastel colors as border. A line-up of holiday activities for the kids and the whole family complement this fabulous decor, which include a special Christmas concert with Ms. Pops Fernandez and the Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong at 7 PM at the Grand Atrium on December 17. Other shows include the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir on Thursday, December 16 at 7 PM. The season's events will be capped by a fabulous pre-New Year's Eve party on December 30 complete with Dimsum and D'Soul Band and a spectacular fireworks display. Make it a Shang holiday this Christmas!

For more details, please call 633-7851, local 110.
Shangri-La Plaza is PRA/DTI's Shopping Center of the Year 2003.

Shangri-La Plaza

'Twas the month of Christmas and all through the Shang,

Children squealed and laughed and the caroling bells rang!

'Cause 'tis a small world this Christmas at your favorite mall,

With treats and surprises for one and all!

Holiday Sights and Sounds at the Grand Atrium, Level 2

*Alitaptap presents "Stories Connect the World" with Award-winning Storyteller Ms. Dianne de Las Casas*
December 3, Friday, 2pm

*Countdown to Christmas Concert with De La Salle University (DLSU) Pops Orchestra*
December 4, Saturday, 6pm

*"Cinderella" Interactive Musical Storytelling with Kids Act Philippines*
December 11, Saturday, 5pm

*"It's A Small World Christmas" at the Shang Presented by Trumpets*
December 5, 12, 26 & January 2, Sunday, 4:30pm
December 21, Tuesday, 4:30pm

*San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra & The San Miguel Master Chorale*
December 16, Thursday, 7pm

*"It's a Children's Christmas" with Ms. Pops Fernandez & the Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong*
December 17, Friday, 7pm

*"A Very Jerry Christmas" with Cartoon Network*
December 19, Sunday, 10am

*Christmas Caravan with Effie Nañas Dancentre*
December 22, Wednesday, 6pm

*A Classical Christmas Concert with Acoustic Perfection*
December 24, Friday, 4pm

Deck the Halls with Gifts and Music at the Art Plaza, Level 4

*It's A Wrap with Wrap Shop Christmas Gift Wrapping Session*
December 3, Friday, 4pm

*Christmas Wrap Up Gift Wrapping Session with National Bookstore and Hallmark*
December 10, Friday, 4pm

*A Classical Christmas Concert with Acoustic Perfection*
December 17, Friday, 4pm
December 22, Wednesday, 4pm

Heavenly Voices Come A-Caroling

*Chiang Kai Shek Children's Choir*
Level 3
December 4, Saturday, 3pm

*University of the East (UE) Chorale*
Art Plaza, Level 4
December 4, Saturday, 4pm

*Ateneo Chamber Singers*
Art Plaza, Level 4
December 11, Saturday, 4pm

*Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong*
Level 3
December 12, Sunday, 3pm

*Philippine Madrigal Singers*
Level 3
December 18, Saturday, 4pm

*Tiples ng Makati*
Level 3
December 19, Sunday, 3pm

*Kilyawan Boy's Choir*
Level 3
December 26, Sunday, 3pm

Shopping Hours for a Merry Holiday

December 8-23
Extended Mall Hours: 10am - 10pm
December 24 and 31: 10am - 7pm
December 26-30
Regular Mall Hours: 10am - 9pm
December 25 and January 1, 2005
Mall Closed

Jingle Bell Rockin' at the Streetscape

*Starts at 9:30pm*
December 3: Oona
December 4: Acoustic Jive with May Bayot

*Starts at 10pm*
December 10: Fresh Mix
December 11: REtroSPECT
December 17: FreeVerse
December 18: John Y Cash & The Jukebox
December 30: Pre-New Year's Party with Dimsum & D'Soul

Shangri-La Plaza
Life's a thrill.


BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Light up . . .

From page J1

people call it, is usually made of bamboo and *papel de japon* pasted on a star-shaped bamboo frame. Today, it has evolved into a colorfully lighted lantern made of *capiz* shells gracing not only houses but even streets.

The *parol* has never lost its appeal through the years. When the Christmas season nears, decorating a house with a *parol* is foremost in mind.

Roland Quiambao is one of the more successful *parol*-makers in Pampanga. His shop, Ro-Renz, at the Paskuhan Village (now known as Hilaga) in Pampanga displays lanterns of various types and designs for individual and wholesale purchases.

According to caretaker Janine Dizon, Quiambao has been in the business for more than 10 years. Like the *parol*, the business has evolved into making the traditional star Christmas lanterns to *capiz*.

The star *parol* is usually handmade by Quiambao's wife Renz. The flat ones cost only P15 to P25.

He later added the *capiz* lanterns as encouraged by a friend. The *capiz* is more complicated. The pieces of *capiz* are boiled in water with color before putting it to a steel frame. Small light bulbs are then added. These bulbs are replaceable. The cheapest of these types of lanterns cost from P1,000 to P4,800. More expensive perhaps, but these lanterns are sturdier and last several years, too.

Quiambao's parols have become fixtures in trade exhibits, one of the reasons workers begin making *parols* during the month of March. Aside from bulk orders, Dizon said, Ro-Renz also makes street décor, such as those giant flower *parols* lined up in several streets in the country.

Pampanga is considered as the home of *parols*. An annual Lantern Festival used to be held at the Paskuhan but in recent years it has relocated to the nearby shopping mall.

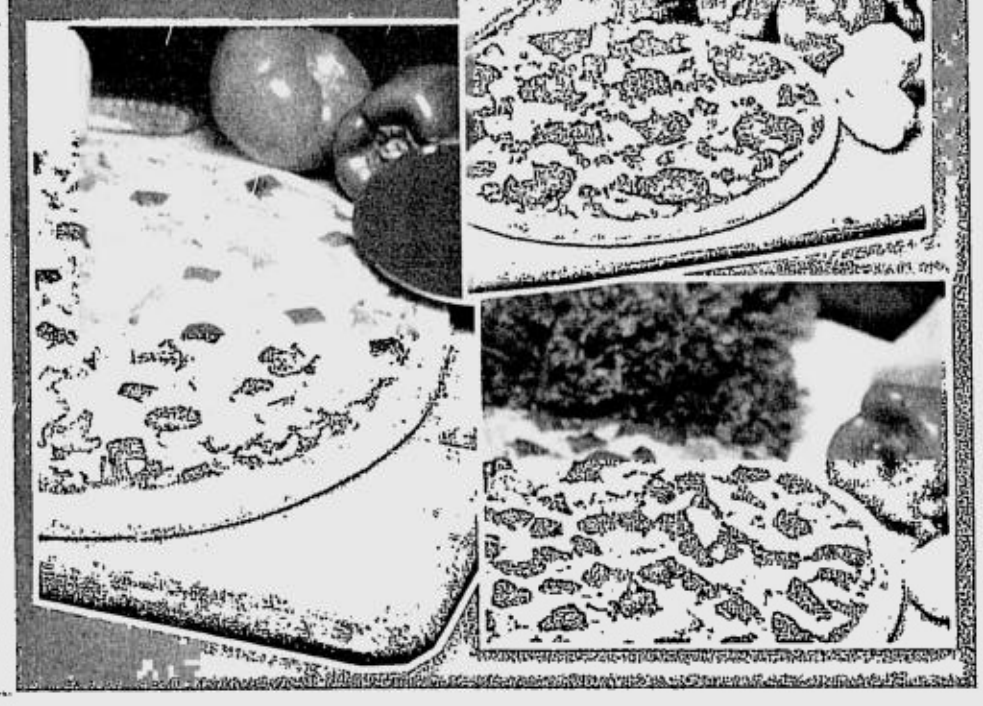
It has inspired the creativity of

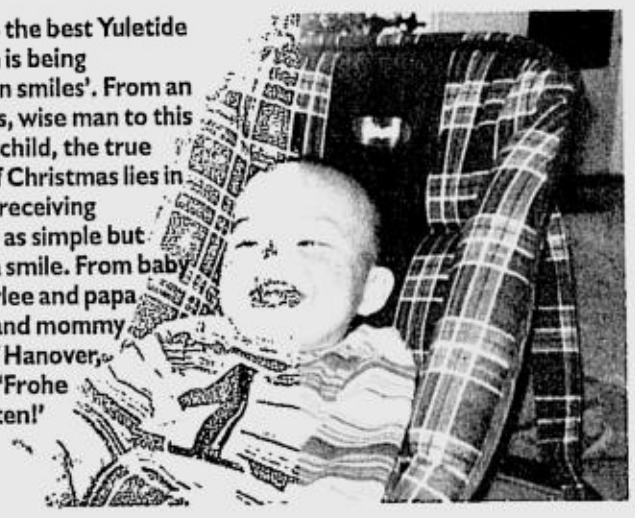
LIGHT/J3

# New treat for Christmas shoppers

HAVE you tried Chicken Adobo on a pizza yet? Imagine large chunks of flavorful chicken adobo, mushrooms, and onions on a hot bed of mozzarella and a pan pizza crust. You can now try the signature flavor of Fat Boy Pizza Pasta in its newly opened dine-in restaurant at Banawe Street in Quezon City. Take a break from your hectic Christmas shopping at SM City Bicutan, all Ever Gotesco malls, CVC Supermarket, Manotoc and Karuhatan Streets in Valuenzuela and Puregold Supermarket Cubao and Commonwealth.

In fact in only one year Fat Boy's has expanded from its 10 mall-friendly kiosk-style chain to its first sit-down diner complete with delivery service. This is due to its consistent promise of excellent taste and value that keep loyal customers coming back. Other popular menu items are "all-out on toppings" Super Supremo, Supremo and All-Meat Special Pan Pizzas, Crispy Fried Chicken and Pasta are also available at affordable prices. Nearby residents of Banawe can even have their orders delivered to their Christmas parties by calling 712-1121 or 412-7060.





**'PERHAPS the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles'. From an anonymous, wise man to this one happy child, the true message of Christmas lies in giving and receiving something as simple but lasting as a smile. From baby Philipp Torlee and papa Christian and mommy Rowena of Hanover, Germany, 'Frohe Weihnachten!'**

# iPod, mobile phones to top Holiday gift lists worldwide—Icom survey

TODAY'S increasingly electronic world is especially evident at holiday time. A recently conducted survey of Icom agencies found that electronics are high on many shopping lists around the world, with Apple's iPod and mobile phones, especially high-end phones and those incorporating cameras, topping the lists.

Of 49 respondents (from 44 agencies in 33 countries) to the question, "What do you expect to be the hottest gift items in your market for the holidays?," more than one-third (18) named iPod, specifically, and 22 named the category of mobile phones.

iPod got more citations in North America (7) and Asia (5) while mobile phones captured more in Europe (10) and Latin America (6).

Many respondents also said a variety of other electronics should be big sellers, including flat screen TVs, personal DVD players, SLR digital cameras, DVD players and recorders, PDAs and computers.

Respondents named many major brands as expected to do well in the electronics and cell phone categories, but for computer equipment, the Sony Vaio and Apple Mac and Powerbook stood out.

Electronics are also expected to be big sellers for kids as well, including cell phones and iPods, along with Sony PlayStation, Microsoft Xbox and Nintendo systems, Game Boy in particular and the most recent videogames for them.

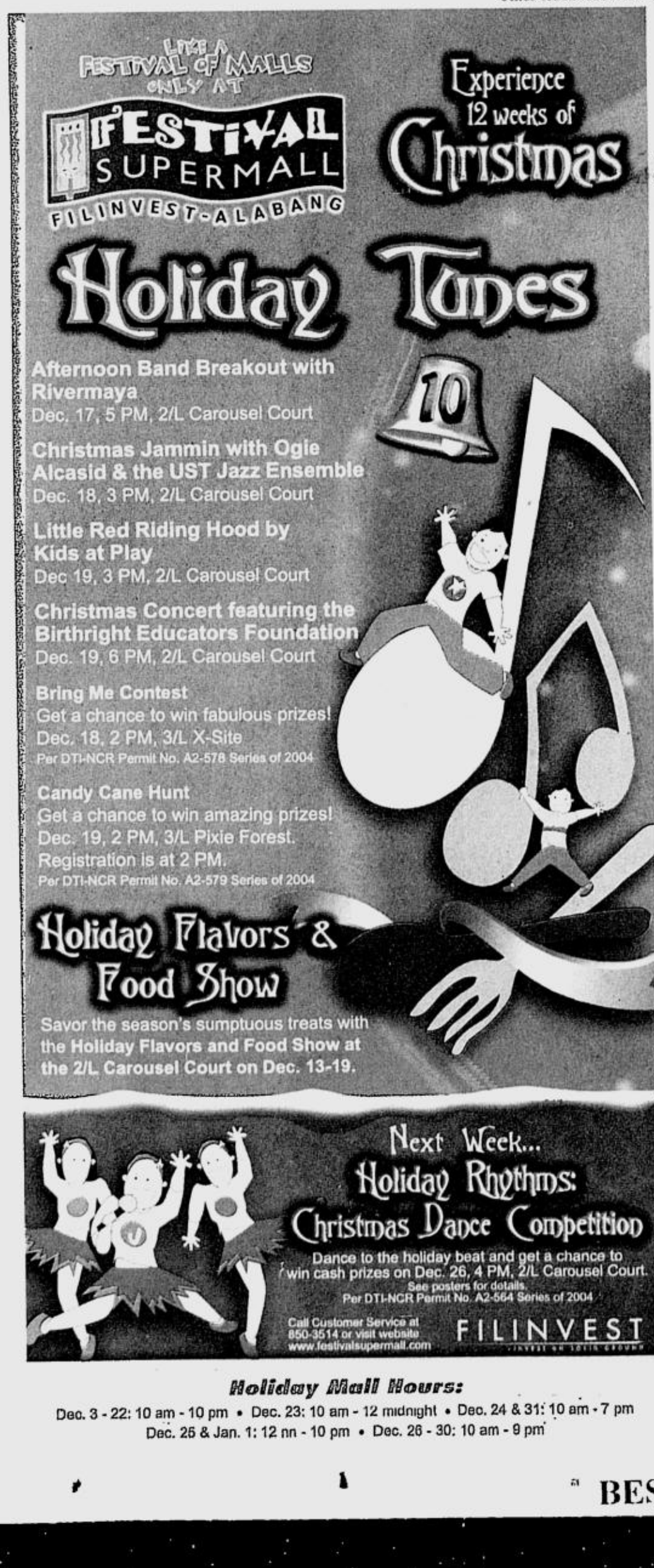
Rollinsville, Colorado-based Icom (www.icomagencies.com), the most balanced of international independent advertising agency networks, periodically conducts surveys among its members to take a pulse on happenings around the world. With its 80-plus advertising agency members in more than 55 countries, Icom covers 95 percent of the world's markets.

For the most part, members are quite optimistic about a strong Holiday season. The exceptions among the 33 countries responding were Italy, Pakistan, South Korea, Spain and Venezuela. Within the United States, predictions ranged from slightly higher sales than last year to a very strong season.

While new ideas like a DVD of the "Seinfeld" shows, Sirius satellite radio and the Jennifer Lopez J. Lo fragrance are on shopping lists, so are old standbys such as Barbie, Barney the Dinosaur, scooters, chocolates and other confectionery, jewelry, watches, diamonds, clothing, books and fragrances.

In some countries-Chile, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Vietnam-travel packages, especially outside the country, are highly desired.

Merchandise tied to movies and TV programs also received numerous mentions. Anything from action figures to pajamas featuring Sponge Bob Square Pants or the "Incredibles" plus the "Shrek 2" DVD are expected to be hot sellers.




# 12 Weeks of Christmas Cheer at Festival Supermall

FESTIVAL Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang is now on its 10th week of its annual 12 Weeks of Christmas holiday celebration of promos, music, fun, contests and all-around family entertainment.

The Holiday Flavors and Kitchen Stuff begins on Dec. 13 to 19, at the 2nd Level Carousel Court. Prepare for a showcase of the latest in kitchen, tools and gadgets in an interactive display and exhibit as well as a recipe showcase of easy to cook dishes for the holiday season.

On the 4th Level, C-Square, a Display of Christmas Lanterns awaits you on Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. It will showcase all entries to the "Inter-School Christmas Lantern Competition". A definite sight to behold.

Dec. 11 and 12 also marks the MTV Youth Fair 2004. From 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., get ready for a weekend fiesta aimed at challenging the youth of today to have their own voice. Expect celebrity guests, fabulous prizes, games, raffles and a supercharged concert to cap off the weekend.

The 4th Level EWTrade and Music Hall on Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. will also see some excitement and merriment as the "Karoling" Christmas Choral Competition Finals kicks off as part of a Christmas Medley Choral Competition open to all barangays, churches, schools and other institutions within Muntinlupa and Calabarzon.

The 2nd Level, Carousel Court sees more action and excitement from Dec. 17 to 19. First, it's a hard rockin concert by Rivermaya on Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Ogie Alcasid with the UST Jazz Ensemble performs its brand of holiday cheer on Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. And on Dec. 19, 2 p.m., it's fun for the whole family with the Sunday Playhouse, a staging of some of the most colorful and entertaining musicals at 2pm followed by a special one-night only Christmas Concert by the Birthright Educators Foundation at 6 p.m.

Dec. 18 is also a special day for kids, teenagers and adults who are young-at-heart with a special Bring Me Competition to be held at the 3rd Level, X-site at 1 p.m. Enjoy an entire afternoon of fun, games and prizes to add more cheer to your yuletide celebration.

Dec. 19 offers something strictly for children: a Candy Cane Hunt! Children from 4 to 8 years of age may join this fun and exciting search at the 3rd Level of the Pixie Forest beginning at 1 p.m.

As Christmas nears, the much-awaited awarding to the Christmas Lantern Competition will be held at the 4th Level, Expo Trade and Music Hall at 1 p.m. May the best and brightest win!

To cap of the holiday season, relax and unwind with a Christmas dance competition entitled, Holiday Rhythms, on Dec. 26, 4 p.m. at the 2nd Level Carousel Court. This will be open to dance enthusiasts of any style and discipline, from age groups 15 to 25 years old.

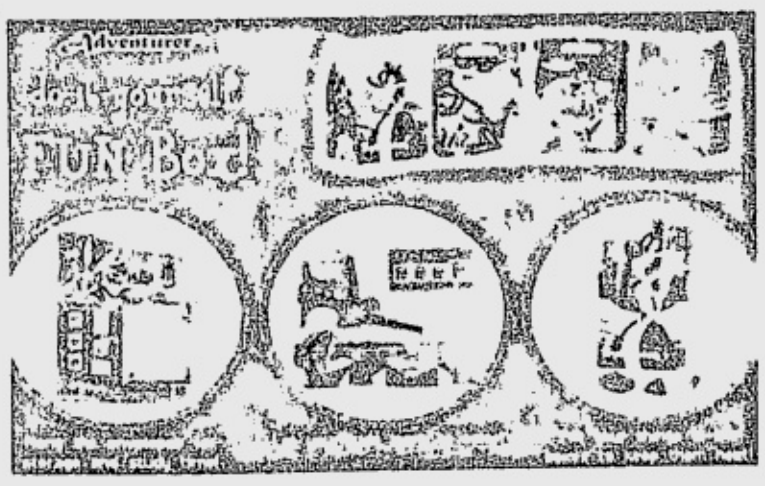
So, take time out to enjoy all the sights and sounds this Christmas season as Festival Supermall winds up its 12 Weeks of Christmas celebration with a bang. From exhibits to concerts to games, there's always something for everyone this holiday season at Festival Supermall.

# A 'Looney Tunes' adventure with Adventurer

HAVE an adventure this Yuletide season with your favorite "Looney Tunes" character with Adventurer's Do-It-Yourself box.

These fun boxes are not just toys. They also educate children by allowing them to play with colors with the half-colored boxes. You can put your things inside the boxes to have a clutter-free environment, or use these boxes to wrap your gifts. You can also turn these boxes into miniature lanterns by putting a lantern light (sold separately).

Available in Bugs Bunny, Tazmanian Devil, Sylvester and Tweety character designs, the Adventurer Fun Box is available at all National Book Store branches and other leading department stores and wholesalers nationwide.




# Making merry with PA Christmas Cards

TIRED of giving the usual Christmas card but can't do without that personal touch?

The P. Lhuillier Insurance Agency, in partnership with its insurance and card provider Malayan Insurance Company, reintroduces the Personal Accident Christmas Card-the perfect gift that captures the season's true meaning of giving, sharing and loving.

The Personal Christmas Cards (PA Christmas Cards) include accidental death and dismemberment benefits in a greeting card form. It's the Christmas card with a twist!

For the same price of a commercial Christmas card, the PA Christmas Card incorporates a personal accident insurance cover for each recipient. At a cost of P20 per card, recipient enjoys P10,000 worth of accidental death and dismemberment (ADD) coverage, P35 cards include a P20,000 ADD coverage, while the P50 cards include a P50,000 ADD coverage for the recipient.

For volume purchases (minimum of a thousand pieces), the cards may be customized. Family pictures, special greetings and/or messages may be included to give your special gift that personal touch.

The P. Lhuillier Insurance Agency and Malayan Insurance assure customers hassle-free processing and maximum benefits at the best possible price.

For inquiries on the PA Christmas Card, call the P. Lhuillier Insurance Agency at 895-1093 or 895-1777.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Light up your 'parol'

From page J2

the *parol* makers. Some *parols* stand tall at 40 feet, according to the book "Pasko! The Philippine Christmas." The much-awaited parade of giant lanterns yields entries from several towns in Pampanga. According to locals, the making of *parols* is a concerted effort from volunteers in the local government units.

It also brings in tourists who want to witness and be awed by the artistry and colorful designs.

The book also notes that the "tradition of *parol* folk art dates back to 1928 when artisan Francisco Estanislao first constructed the original, simple five-point star lantern, lighted by either a candle of *kalburo* (carbide) lamp, as a symbol of the Star of the Bethlehem."

**LANTERN-MAKING** usually begins in March to accommodate orders for the year.

## *Sew in that Holiday spirit*

SURELY nothing compares to the joys that the holiday season brings. But it gives even greater pleasure to be surrounded by beautiful Christmas-themed decorations drawn out from one's own effort and inherent creativity using a highly reliable Singer sewing machine.

Singer, the brand synonymous to sewing machine, is giving out a few tips for an easy time at sewing adorable cookie-cutter shaped pieces to hang on a tree or select nooks throughout the home. Here's how: trace cookie cutter or heart shape on paper with a pencil, put ¼ (6mm) seam allowance; cut fabric pieces according to the shape in the pattern; set aside ribbon (for hanging) to be glued in at the upper part of the decoration; place the fabric pieces together by sewing in 1.4" (6mm) from the raw edges using short stitches; leave 1" opening to insert polyester fiber filling; stitch in opening carefully leaving a seam allowance of 1/8" (3mm); enhance each piece with frilly Christmas designs using fabric paint tubes with fine tips; use pinking shears for a fancy edge finish.

Now made even more affordable for the budget-conscious enthusiasts, Singer offers a zigzag sewing machine - MEG 5430 for as low as P1,690 down payment with 10 easy monthly installments for only P1,090. The "Sew Affordable" promo is good until Dec. 31 only. For inquiries call Singer Customer Hotline 1-800-100-Singer or 527-9958.

# Share a Ritz Apple Strudel

ARE YOU looking for that special gift this Holiday season? Something that will truly be appreciated by the person you're giving it to? A gift that is perfect to bring to any party? Well, look no further. The perfect gift for that special person or persons is here. Share a Ritz Apple strudel with the special people in your lives this Holiday season and experience "Love at first bite!" together.

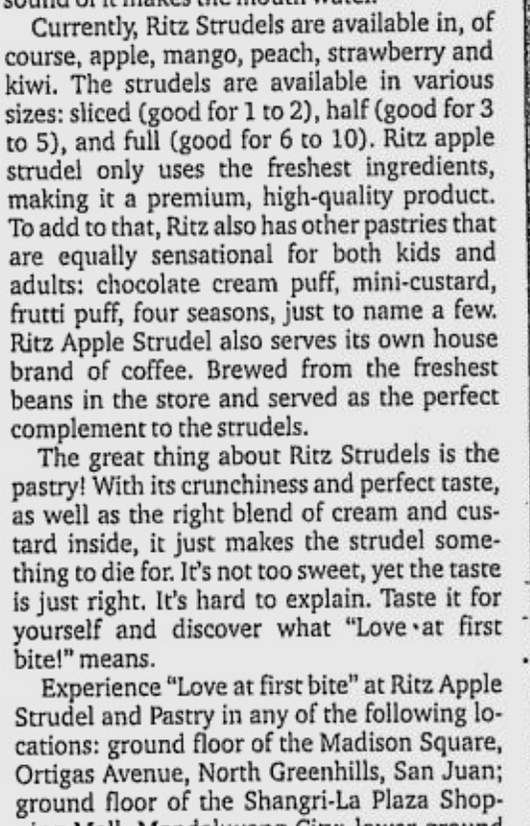
Recently, Singapore has been a source of numerous feasts for the palette, from breads to coffee shops. Here is something different. A pastry like no other, a pastry that will give you a taste of heaven-who knows, maybe even a pastry that will make you fall in love.

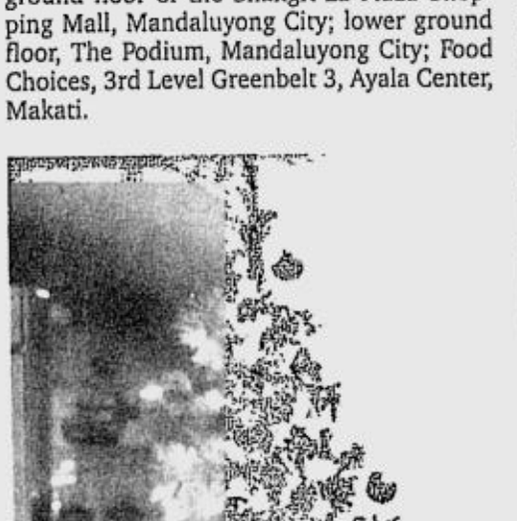
Ritz Apple Strudels are delicious, high-quality pastries consisting of layers of spongy sliced apples, crispy filo pastry sheets, only the freshest cream, and creamy light custard, giving the pastry the perfect flavor with just the right sweetness and flakiness. Just the sound of it makes the mouth water.

Currently, Ritz Strudels are available in, of course, apple, mango, peach, strawberry and kiwi. The strudels are available in various sizes: sliced (good for 1 to 2), half (good for 3 to 5), and full (good for 6 to 10). Ritz apple strudel only uses the freshest ingredients, making it a premium, high-quality product. To add to that, Ritz also has other pastries that are equally sensational for both kids and adults: chocolate cream puff, mini-custard, frutti puff, four seasons, just to name a few. Ritz Apple Strudel also serves its own house brand of coffee. Brewed from the freshest beans in the store and served as the perfect complement to the strudels.

The great thing about Ritz Strudels is the pastry! With its crunchiness and perfect taste, as well as the right blend of cream and custard inside, it just makes the strudel something to die for. It's not too sweet, yet the taste is just right. It's hard to explain. Taste it for yourself and discover what "Love at first bite!" means.

Experience "Love at first bite" at Ritz Apple Strudel and Pastry in any of the following locations: ground floor of the Madison Square, Ortigas Avenue, North Greenhills, San Juan; ground floor of the Shangri-La Plaza Shopping Mall, Mandaluyong City; lower ground floor, The Podium, Mandaluyong City; Food Choices, 3rd Level Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati.





# Watsons

YOUR PERSONAL STORE

Snoopy Gifts
P89 each

# Give this christmas

Big Bear
1,199.75

Musical Dancing Mice (Assorted)
569.75

12" Musical Reindeer with Sax
499.75

Winnie the Pooh Huggable
349.75

Rag Dolls
349.75

Sitting Bear with Heart Treat
269.75

Plush Sitting Bears in Assorted Colors
169.75

Christmas Headbands with Music & Lights
109.75

4.5" Dressed Animal Collection
99.75

7-Day Bath Collection
269.75

Bath Set in Vinyl Bag
189.75

Bath Set in PVC BOX (Large)
169.75

Bath Set in PVC Box
(5Pcs)
99.75

Plush Air Freshener
79.75

Soap in Glass Globe
69.75

Issey Miyake Homme
4,550

Lanvin D'Ar Eclat Coffret 2004
4,198

MNG 100ml
2,200

The Healing Garden Waters
1,999.75

Boum for Men & Women
699.75

Christmas Shower Gel
49.75

Ferrero Rocher Pcs
377.75

Ferrero Rocher Stainless Ball Tin and Tile
246.75

Kenny Roger's Pure Butter Short Bread
249.75

Cadbury Assorted Almond Nuts
164.50

Body.Treats Body Spray 100ml
99.75
Body Spray 250ml
169.00

Cadbury Chocolate Mix Carton
219.75

Id The Complete Clarifying Kit
349.75

Astringent-gel
261.75

Listerine FREE Kodak Gold
229.75

Johnson & Johnsons Baby Bath Lotion
96.75
Baby Shampoo
54.75
Baby Bath Wash Original & Creamy
50.75

PROMO PERIOD: NOV 25 - JAN 3. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5882, Series of 2004

FEEL GREAT! LOOK GOOD HAVE FUN

SM City North Edsa, SM City Annex, SM City Sta. Mesa, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, SM City Bicutan, SM City Novaliches, SM City Pampanga, SM City Manila, Festival Supermall, SM Supercenter Sucat, SM City Davao, The Podium, Marikina, SM City Cagayan De Oro, Ayala Malaybalay, Puerto, SM City Bicutan, Starmall Las Piñas, Gaisano Grand Tagum, SM City Dasmariñas, Shangri-La, SM City Robinsons Galleria, SM City Marilao, Ortigas, Elizabeth Cebu Mall, Greenhills, Pasa Central, Ayala Center, Cagayan De Oro, Olongapo, Sm Iligan, SM City Pampanga, SM City Manila, Bonifacio Global City, Greenbelt, SM City Baguio, Glorietta Mall, Davao, Megamall, SM City Marikina, SM City Batangas, Cubao, Valenzuela City, Robinsons Galleria, Tuguegarao, SM Delgado

## Christmas Shopping

# Misa de Gallo starts the longest Christmas season

By Raquel P. Gomez

The smell of charcoal-baked *bibingka* and *puto bumbong* (traditional rice cakes) is in the air. People wake up at dawn, dress their finest and head out onto the cool bright streets to hear the Dawn Mass or Misa de Gallo.

With Church bells ringing at 4 a.m. for the Misa de Gallo on Dec. 16, the whole country officially starts the world's longest Christmas season.

Misa de Gallo literally means "Mass of the Rooster." It was said to have been started by a Spanish friar in the 18th century as thanksgiving Mass for a bountiful harvest. The Mass was held at dawn so to allow farmers to go to work after the ceremony.

The priest also scheduled the end of the 9-day novena to coincide with the "Noche Buena" celebration during Christmas Eve.

The Misa de Gallo then took off. The people and the whole community were happy with the results that they decided to do the same event again and again until other villages heard about it and did the same. Today, it is a cultural milestone.

In earlier days, a brass band played Christmas music around town while priests knocked on doors to wake up the faithful in time for Mass.

Today, while still called dawn Mass, the rite has undergone changes and sometimes even held at night.

The Misa de Gallo, which is held for 9 days, is a significant moment not only because it strengthens relationships among family members but also because it is the time where faith is intensified, the time where we mostly feel the presence of the Lord, as it is the spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ.

The tradition is not complete without the feast of native delicacies, such as *bibingka* (rice cake), *puto bumbong* and *salabat* (ginger tea), that can be bought from stalls that usually line church courtyards.

# A bite of bibingka

FelyMar's bibingkas are cooked the traditional way–in red clay pans on top of clay ovens. Another sheet of iron with burning charcoal is placed on top to cook the top portion of the cake.

AN EXPERIENCE of a dawn Mass at Espiritu Santo Church in Tayuman in Manila wouldn't be complete without going to FelyMar's Special Bibingka store and satisfying one's morning hunger and thirst with freshly cooked *bibingka* (traditional rice cakes) and tea.

Located at 1030 Rizal Avenue, just below the LRT Tayuman station, FelyMar's has been known in the area for its delicious and affordable *bibingka* that come with free tea. A special *bibingka* is sold for P30. But if you want more ingredients to go with the rice cake such as more red egg and cheese, add a few more bucks.

FelyMar's *bibingka* are cooked the traditional way in red clay pans on top of clay ovens. Another sheet of iron with burning charcoal is placed on top to cook the top portion of the cake.

As to the *bibingka's* recipe, Felymar's also uses traditional ingredients—special rice, white and red eggs, cheese and grated coconut for toppings.

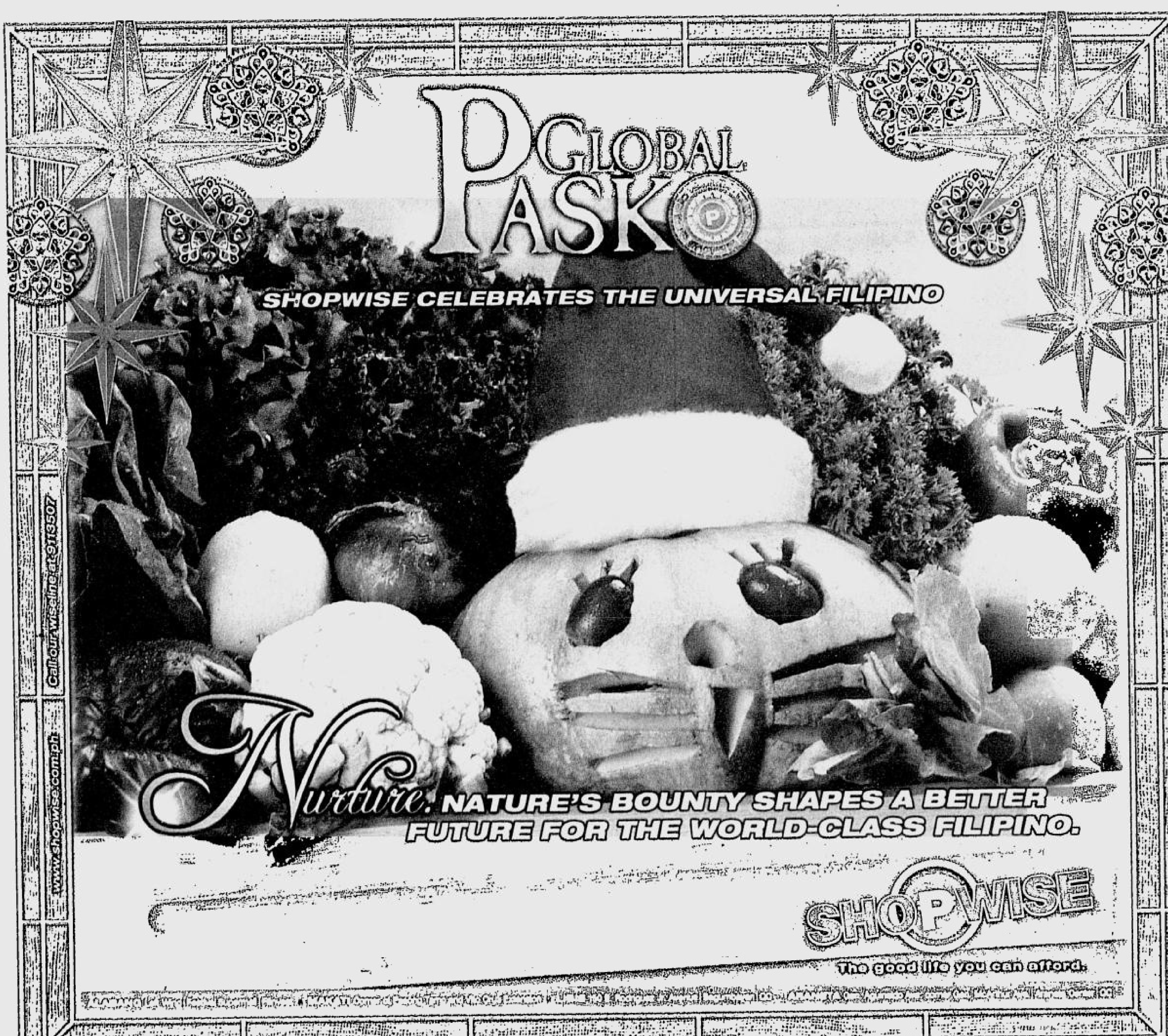
The store, an old, unpainted and darkly lit structure, is hardly noticeable. Very noticeable, however, are the billows of smoke from the clay ovens and a number of *bibingka* patrons who enjoy their quiet snacks on torn dining tables and wooden benches.

Proprietor Fely Austria did not expect that her *bibingka* would be such a tremendous hit—not only people from the community bought from the store, but people from other places too. FelyMar's sells about an average of 300 rice cakes this Christmas season.

A BITE/ K2

**ALING FELY** demonstrates how her famous 'bibingka' is made

PHOTOS BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ



# Traditional Christmas delicacies

Photo taken from 'Pasko! The Philippine Christmas'

Christmas is really just around the corner. You can literally smell its presence through the smells of traditional foods and delicacies served during the occasion.

*Kakanin* are snacks and sweets, usually made of sticky rice. *Kakanin* served in bilao (flat baskets) is often a combination of *sapin-sapin*, *ube*, *biko*, *suman*, etc, and so the colors-purple, white, pink, green, light brown-are arranged in patterns.

*Puto* and *kutsinta* (cakes made of rice flour) are steamed in bamboo tubes, large cakes or small molds, colored or white or beige or brown or purple, sliced in trapezoids or rectangles or wedges, and arranged in steamers, platters, or baskets.

*Suman*, *ibus*, *tupig*, and *tamales* (rice and sticky-rice cakes) are wrapped in coconut fronds, banana leaves, nipa leaves, etc, and give play to another kind of creativity.

Pale young coconut fronds are wound around *suman sa ibus* in most places; in Obando, Bulacan, darker green ones are woven into little triangular baskets.

Breakfast *puto-maya* is spooned into banana-leaf twists in the Bantayan market, into packets elsewhere.

*Tamales* are steamed in banana leaf, the wrapping style varying with the area—flat or fat; tied or untied; trapezoid in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

The *puso* in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro are fist-sized, woven coconut leaf packages that hold steamed rice or "hanging rice" - for lunch in the market, and for traveling. The *tupig* of the Ilocos are rice cakes served on holidays, or in cockpits, where they are both aesthetic and convenient for eating during such exciting occasions.

The early morning markets where these snacks are served as breakfast with chocolate, *salabat* or ginger ale, or tea are the stalls that sprout outside churches during the *simbang gabi* or dawn Masses before Christmas, the daytime markets where the snacks become *merienda* or *pantawid gutom* ("bridging" hungers between meals), the baskets of itinerant vendors.

FROM FOOD ART BY DOREEN FERNANDEZ, CCP ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILIPPINE ART

## A bite of bibingka

From page K1

The number would go up when the dawn Mass starts, according to Aling Fely.

The store was opened in early 1992 by Aling Fely and her sister-in-law Marieta Austria. The two weren't selling *bibingka* but *sago-gulaman* drink (sweet drink made from brown sugar and jelly) and boiled bananas.

Come late November, Aling Fely and Aling Mari tried to sell *bibingka* because it was Christmas season and they were anticipating the churchgoers from the dawn Masses in Espiritu Santo Church.

By December 1993, Aling Fely and Aling Mari went full-time selling *bibingka* with only P700 as seed money. Aling Fely got the winning recipe for the *bibingka* from recollection. She used to work for a *bibingka* seller in Manuguit, Manila in the early 1980s.

"A lot of people told us to sell *bibingka* instead of the previous stuff we were selling. They really liked the taste of our special *bibingka* and they've kept coming back," said Aling Fely.

Aling Fely said she concentrated on making *bibingka* because she has perfected its recipe. She once tried making *puto bumbong*, another rice delicacy, but it didn't turn out as delicious as her *bibingka*. "I tried several times to make *puto bumbong*, but I was never able to get it out of the bamboo tube," she said with a smile.

Through the *bibingka* store, Aling Fely, a widow, was able to send her two children to college.

The store, which started only with two people, now has several people employed. "We were able to provide work for our nephews and nieces as well," said Aling Fely

At FelyMar's *bibingka* are sold year round. On ordinary days, it is open from 12 noon to 12 midnight. But this Christmas season, the store will be open till morning. FelyMar's has another branch in Doroteo Jose in Manila.

*Raquel P. Gomez*

**'A LOT of people told us to sell 'bibingka' instead of the previous stuff we were selling. They really liked the taste of our special 'bibingka' and they've kept coming back,' said Aling Fely.**

SAY more
than what they LOVE on
CHRISTMAS DAY!




"They will surely love you MORE!

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# AMERICAN HOME® Makes Life Easier for you

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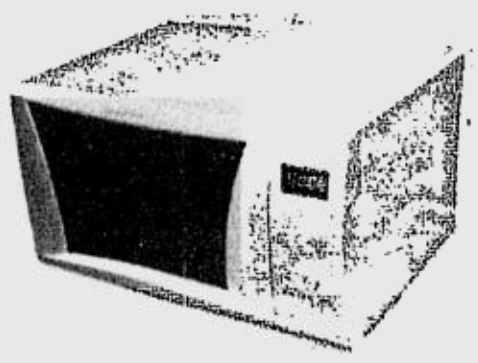
In today's fast-paced living, you can have a hard time keeping up with everything around you, especially if you have your own pad, condo or house. Because you're very busy doing all sorts of things, it would be very hard for you to find the time to take care of your home, to prepare the right meals, to wash your clothes or to even organize stuff in your kitchen. Luckily for you, there are American Home® appliances.

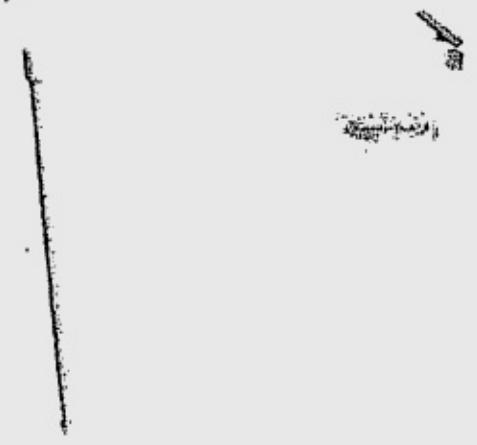
American Home appliances are made with elegance and function in mind. They are not only created to fit your home beautifully, they are also designed to make your lifestyle simpler and easier - to make life more enjoyable. American Home refrigerators, microwave ovens, washer-dryers, air conditioners, coffee makers, water dispensers, rice cookers and a whole lot more are easy to operate and use. With them, you can save lots of time so you can be able to do the other things you need to do in today's demanding world.

Each American Home appliance is loaded with innovative features and convenient functions to give you a hassle-free time in doing your household chores.



**Feel like a pro with the grill and 8 preset cooking functions of the American Home AMW-GC2500 SX Microwave**

Cooking the right meals is done quick and easy with American Home microwave ovens. They have the advanced CRS - concave reflex system, which makes use of concave reflectors inside the oven to better reflect the microwaves for even and more efficient cooking.



**Be cool and save up on your electricity bill with the American Home ABR-18W Personal Refrigerator**

Organizing your kitchen and storing foods are made simpler with American Home refrigerators. They are easy on your electric bill with their energy efficient compressor. These refs are easy on the environment as well with their environment-friendly refrigerants.

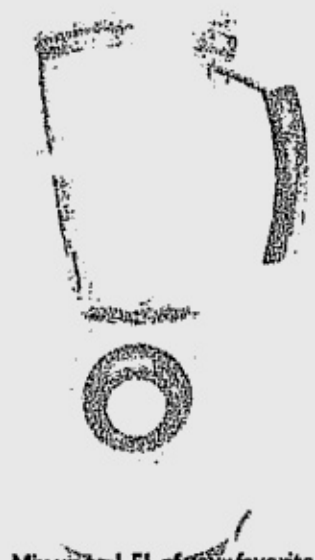
**Let the American Home LWH18AW-3322 Washing Machine be the perfect solution to all your laundry concerns**

Washing and drying tons of laundry is never a problem with American Home twin tub washing machines. Each comes with a powerful washer motor, a timer system and a very powerful spinner motor for more efficient washing. Other American Home appliances also deliver when it comes to making life easier for you. They can all be considered your household partners in modern living.

American Home appliances come in elegantly designed exteriors that are easy to clean. Removing the toughest dirt, stains and grime can be done in a jiffy. No need for different kinds of dirt removers or cleaners. Just wiping with a damp cloth will do. With these special exteriors, American Home appliances can match your counters or tabletops perfectly and they can easily add sophistication to any kitchen or dining room.

And you'll be surprised to know that American Home appliances are reasonably priced - giving you added ease when it comes to saving and budgeting for a new appliance! You don't need to pay extra to get the convenience, elegance and quality with American Home appliances.

**Enjoy your fresh brewed coffee in an instant with the American Home ACM-116W Coffee Maker.**



**Mix up to 1.5L of your favorite juice or shake with the American Home AMB-15L Blender.**

American Home appliances are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by AHAM Corporation, a company that has been providing Filipinos with top of the line appliances for almost a decade. Formerly known as CMTC International Marketing Corporation, the company aims to upgrade the quality of life of Filipinos by giving them a full range of home appliances at reasonable cost and value for money with the highest standard of quality.

AHAM Corporation is committed to provide Filipinos with world-class, innovative home appliances and total customer satisfaction. This philosophy drives them to bring to the country great appliances like American Home appliances.

American Home appliances will not only help you breeze through modern living and add function and elegance into your home. They will also help simplify your life. Get American Home appliances and live the Dream now! American Home appliances are available at leading appliance stores nationwide.

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With American Home appliances at Duty Free Philippines,
shopping is made more enjoyable this Holiday Season.

May the warmth of happiness and love fill your home this Christmas!

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*Live the Dream!*

# Popular Pinoy Christmas carols

Christmas carols have traditionally become part of the Filipino celebration of Christmas. In a country where the Christmas season is observed the longest in the world, we hear them being played as early as during the month of September. But more than knowing their lyrics and how they are sung, do we know the story behind each popular carol we ourselves hum during the holidays?

One of the most popular Christmas carols is "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit (Christmas is Here)". First sung in 1933 and composed by Vicente Rubi, the carol is one among the many famous Tagalog compositions of lyricist Levi Celerio. Cast in lively duple time, the song's beginnings may be traced to the celebration of the Cebuano feast of the Pili-Kanipaan in December, where the most popular forms of entertainment were light musical plays.

Since it was first used during a Cebuano festivity, its lyrics were originally in Cebuano composed by Mariano Vestil. A Cebuano playwright, Rafael Policarpio, then needed a song for a drama which called for a cluster of people with *tansan* or soft drink crowns used as accompaniment to the singing of the *daigon* (Christmas carols) at the gate of a big house in exchange for a *pinaskuhan* or gift. This maybe reminds you of Christmas caroling. Its original Cebuano text was entitled "Kasadya Ning Taknaa" ("How Happy Is This Time"). The song became an instant hit after its first performance held in Old Opon, now Lapu-Lapu City. With its first recording 17 years later under the Mareco label, manufacturer of Villar records, the song is soon immortalized in the annals of Philippine Christmas carols. "Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit" bids us to make merry with festive songs during the season, but with a sobering reminder of the ensuing New Year and a fresh, new start to life.

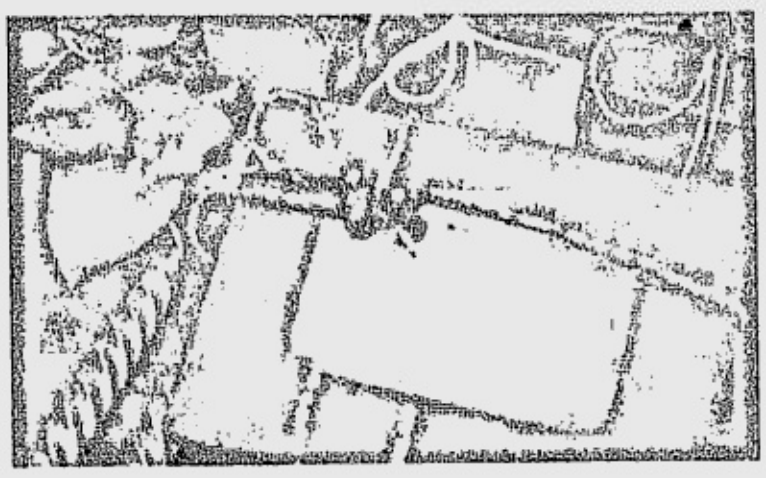
Another very popular Christmas carol is "Pasko Na Naman (It's Christmas Time Once Again)" which is found in many a Christmas song medley such as those by Joel Navarro and Lucio D. San Pedro. It is another composition by Levi Celerio and music by Felipe Padilla de Leon. The song was originally arranged for band and choral accompaniment for chamber orchestra by Lucio D. San Pedro in 1976. It is in two-part *paso-doble* which shifts minor to major tonality. With its lively tune, the carol is a fitting final song of the *misa de aguinaldo* or dawn Mass.

There are still a lot of Christmas carols very popular to Filipinos. Who would forget "Noche Buena," "Umawit ang Kampana," "Mano Po Ninong" or "Sumilang ang Mesiya." They have also become part of many song medleys we hear during Christmas.

Another bit of trivia. Did you know that the first Filipino carols were sung as early as 1894? These were the "Invitation for Nativity" and the "Responsarium" composed by Marcelo Adonay.

*Joel V. Nigos*

SOURCES: "CCP ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILIPPINE ART, VOLUME VI, PHILIPPINE MUSIC" AND "PASKO, THE PHILIPPINE CHRISTMAS" PUBLISHED BY ANVIL PUBLISHING AND NATIONAL BOOK STORE INC.



## *Sofah Restaurant unwraps Christmas packages*

SOFAH Restaurant, where fine dining is served with the secret spices of the East together with the pleasures of the Western world, recently unveiled its mouthwatering Christmas packages of hot dishes and pastries.

Families can feast on boxes of Oriental Roast Chicken, Chinese ChickenHot Pie, Christmas Seafood Noodles, Fish Fillet with Taoso, Stewed Beef Spareribs, Stewed Ox-Tail, and Broccoli Flower with Toasted Garlic.

For desserts and tea time during the Yuletide season, customers can dip their fingers in boxes of Chinese Almond Cookies, Fried Sesame Balls, Tiramisu, Panacotta, and Blueberry Cheesecake.

The assorted Christmas packages come in colorful red and blue boxes wrapped with beads and ribbons fitted for the Holidays.

Sofah general manager Grace Esguerra said all Christmas items are expected to be hot sellers among the regular patrons of the restaurant and exciting for people who are trying them for the first time.

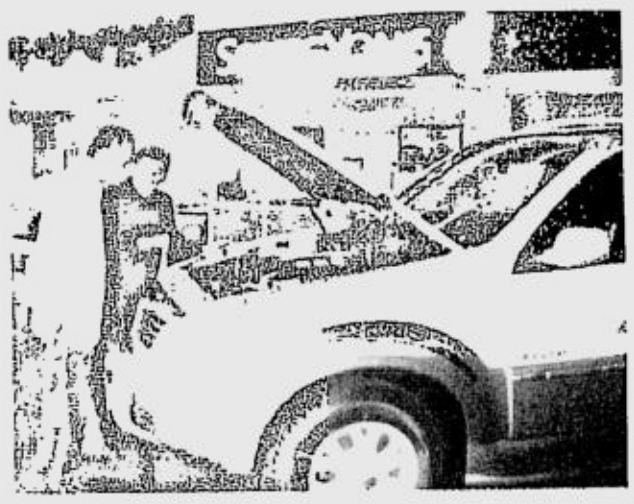
"These are food made perfect for the Holidays. We have developed them over the last three years using special Sofah recipes," Esguerra explained.

Sofah Restaurant, located in Malate, has been serving a wide array of delectable dishes for the past three years.

For Christmas package reservations, customers can call 523-2058 or 400-6572.




## *Consider Wheels this Holiday season*



WHEELS Inc, the country's biggest dealer of multi-branded cars, is offering more choices and options to its valued clientele while ensuring that each customer experiences the best in terms of overall service. Wheels Inc has been in the business of selling cars for the past 27 years. The company hopes to satisfy numerous customer needs by offering the widest range of respected Korean brands from-top-of-the-line luxury vehicles to the more popularly prized cars, from SUVs to all-purpose utility vehicles. This is the distinct advantage of Wheels, wherein the company is not limited to just one brand alone but three world-class car brands, namely Kia, Hyundai and SsangYong. At Wheels Inc, the company understands that each customer's needs vary, hence it extends competitive and flexible financial aid schemes to ensure that each customer is satisfied. Aside from this, the company's service center is incomparable wherein five floors of its huge building are specially allotted for servicing Kia, Hyundai, and SsangYong cars. With all of these in mind, why not visit Wheels for your dream car this Holiday season? Wheels Inc is located at 222 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. Call 727-6394 (for Hyundai), 721-8448 (for Kia), and 411-3580 (for SsangYong).

THE CHRISTMAS season is definitely an exciting time of the year. But it is also stressful with all the errands we make, getting through a sea of people and making our feet withstand long queues at the malls. Good thing there's Titania to help you feel a great sense of comfort this season with an array of products to pamper your feet. Titania Deodorizing Athlete's Foot Soap with anti-bacterial agent, Titania softening lotion with Panthenol and Aloe Vera for an ultra soft skin in an instant, Titania's Deodorising Shoe Spray to keep your feet from catching bad odor, Titania Foot and Bath Talcum with extra powerful and active ingredients that fight bacteria, Titania Vital Foot Bath for a relaxing soap, Titania Foot Deo Soap, and Titania's Protective Balsam. Titania beauty care products is exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corporation and is available at the Landmark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Crossings Department Stores, and selected Watsons and PCX branches nationwide.

## *Dr. P Basic Medium 10 +1 Free Promo is back*




IN THE Spirit of Christmas and in response to the increasing number of people clamoring for quality adult diapers at much affordable price, Dr. P recently launched its promo dubbed as Dr. P Basic Medium 10+1 Free Promo. For every pack of Dr. P Basic Medium 10 diapers you buy, customers get one extra diaper pad free. Dr. P with its antibiosis and deodorization layer protects wearer from odor causing germs so you get more protection and more value for your money. The promo is available until supply lasts and can be found in selected leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

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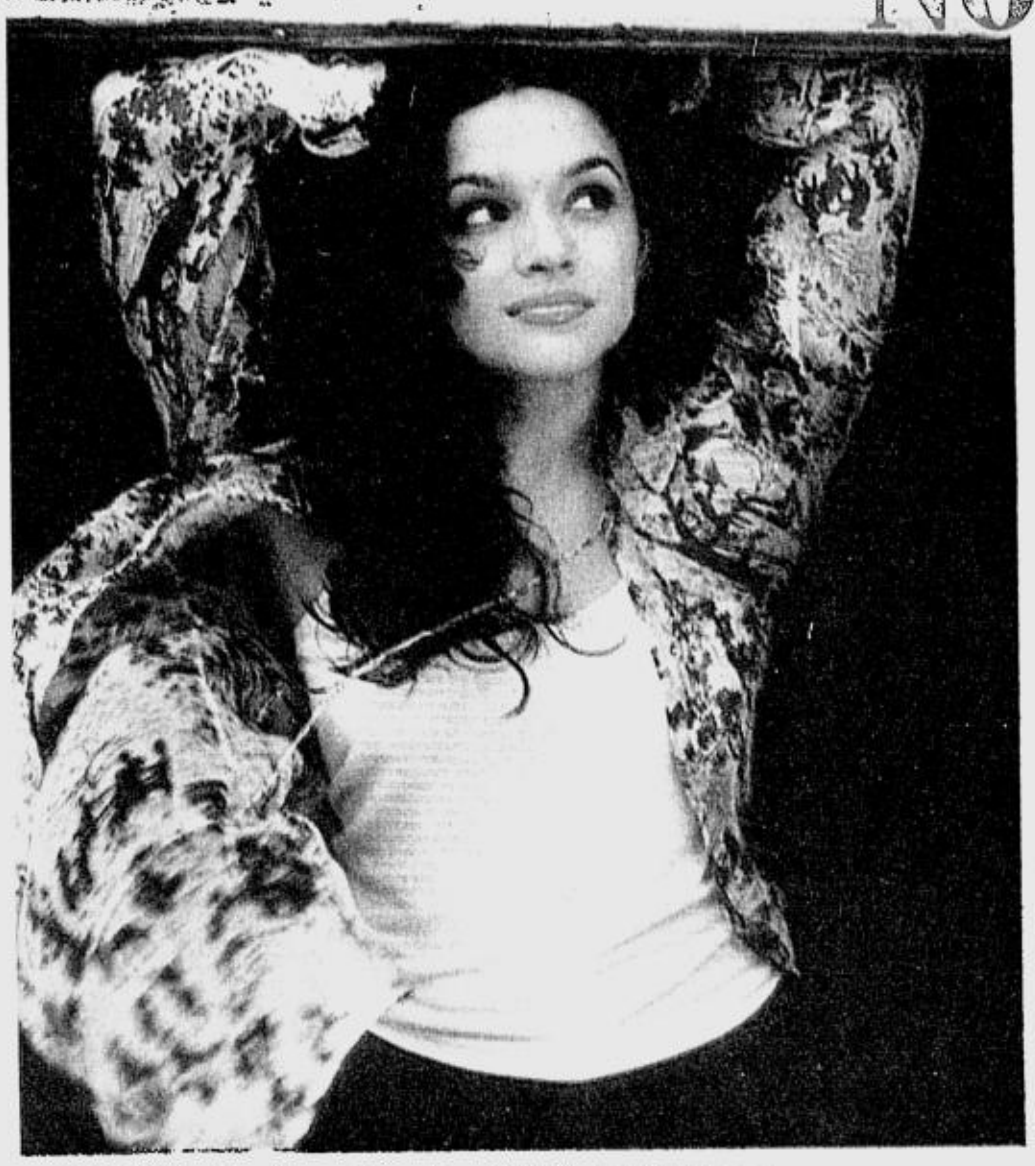
## Norah Jones is coming

### *Grammy-honored singer performs at Araneta in March*



**18 MILLION.** Her first album, "Come Away With Me," sold that much and won 8 Grammys.

GRAMMY Award-winning jazz/pop singer Norah Jones is performing at the Araneta Coliseum on March 12, 2005, to be brought to the country by Globe Handyphone.

The singer and pianist developed her unique blend of jazz and traditional vocal pop with hints of bluesy country and contemporary folk, thanks in large part to her unique upbringing.

**SHOW TIME**

Born on March 30, 1979 in New York City, the daughter of Ravi Shankar grew up quietly in Texas with her mother. While she always found the music of Billie Holiday and Bill Evans both intriguing and comforting, she didn't really explore jazz until attending Dallas' Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

In high school, Jones won the Down Beat Student Music Awards for Best Jazz Vocalist and Best Original Composition in 1996, and bagged a second Best Jazz Vocalist award in 1997. She also earned a degree in jazz piano at the University of North Texas for two years before accepting a friend's offer of a summer sublet in Greenwich Village during the summer of 1999.

Although she fully intended to return to college that fall, the lure of the folk coffeehouses and jazz clubs proved too strong and she soon became inspired to write her own songs.

Jones appeared regularly with the trip-hop-electronica band Wax Poetic and assembled her own group around songwriters Jesse Harris (guitar) and Lee Alexander (bass), with Dan Rieser on drums.

In October 2000, the group recorded a handful of demos for Blue Note Records and on the strength of these recordings, Jones signed up with the jazz label in early 2001.

Following an appearance on Charlie Hunter's Songs From the Analog Playground, Jones spent much of 2001 performing live with Hunter's group and working on material for her debut.

"Come Away With Me," recorded by Craig Street and legendary producer Arif Mardin, was released in early 2002 and garnered a lot of public attention.

The combination of Jones' striking beauty and the fact that she was the daughter of an internationally renowned musician placed Jones in the awkward position of defending her music from those who dismissed her as another pretty face, or just another would-be riding the coattails of her musical royal heritage.

Although "Come Away With Me" wasn't by any stretch a legitimate jazz album, it featured jazz guitarist Bill Frisell and session drummer Brian Blade, and indicated a new direction for Blue Note combining jazz aesthetics and talent with a pop sensibility.

The album eventually went multiplatinum, selling 18 million copies worldwide and winning Jones eight Grammy awards.

Just recently, Jones released her highly-anticipated follow-up album, "Feels Like Home." Pairing once more with producer Arif Mardin, she pursued a similar approach to "Come Away With Me," mixing '70s singer/songwriter-style tracks with blues, country and her own mellow take on piano jazz.

Presented by Globe Handyphone, the "Norah Jones Manila Tour 2005" is produced by ALV Events International. For VVIP and VIP tickets and corporate package inquiries, call 633-9825 to 27.

## Angelu de Leon surrounds self with sexy men

**"NAKAKALOKAH!"** Angelu plays advice give Ate Birdie, and other roles

WHEN SHE was offered a part in "All About Men ... Penis Talks," Director Joel Lamangan's comeback theater project after nine years, Angelu de Leon readily accepted.

"I have great respect for Direk Joel Lamangan," Angelu says. "I will never forget that my first acting trophy was as Best Supporting Actress for his 'Bulaklak ng Maynila.' He really paid attention to me. I appreciate that. And the award inspired me to improve my craft."

Indeed, Angelu has changed for the better. From "TGIS," where she played the role of a carefree girl and was teamed up with Bobby Andrews, she has been exploring all types of acting challenges.

"One of my characters in 'Penis Talks' is Ate Birdie, host of a radio show who gives advice to men," Angelu says. "But I get to play other roles in this male revue. My God, I am surrounded all the while by gorgeous hunks led by Christian Vasquez, Luis Alandy, Carlo Maceda, Paolo Paraiso, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Douglas Robinson, Russel Simon, and William Thio in their tiniest undergarments! *Nakakaloka!*"

After a successful five-day run last October, the revue returns to Music Museum due to insistent public demand tonight and on tomorrow night.

Aside from this theater stint, Angelu has just wrapped up "Aishite Imasu Mahal Kita," line-produced by Regal Entertainment Inc. for BAS Film Production Inc. An entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival, it also stars Judy Ann Santos, Jay Manalo, Raymart Santiago and Dennis Trillo.

She is thankful for this role as well. "The movie is directed by Joel Lamangan and written by Ricky Lee, the same duo behind 'Penis Talks.' Super excited *na ako* about the Parade of The Stars on Dec. 24."

"*Mahusay si* Angelu (She's good)," comments Lamangan. "I am always happy when she is in the cast. She is focused and talented. She deserves more acting roles that equal her talent. *Magaling*!"

Produced by Manny Valera of DMV Entertainment Inc. and Arnold Vegafria of ALV Events International. "Penis Talks" also stars Jenine Desiderio and Ricci Chan.

For inquiries, call Music Museum, 721-0635 or 721-6726, DMV Entertainment 374-1361 or 415-0373, Ticketworld 891-5610 or 891-9999 (National Bookstore). Or visit the website at http://www.penistalkstheplay.com.

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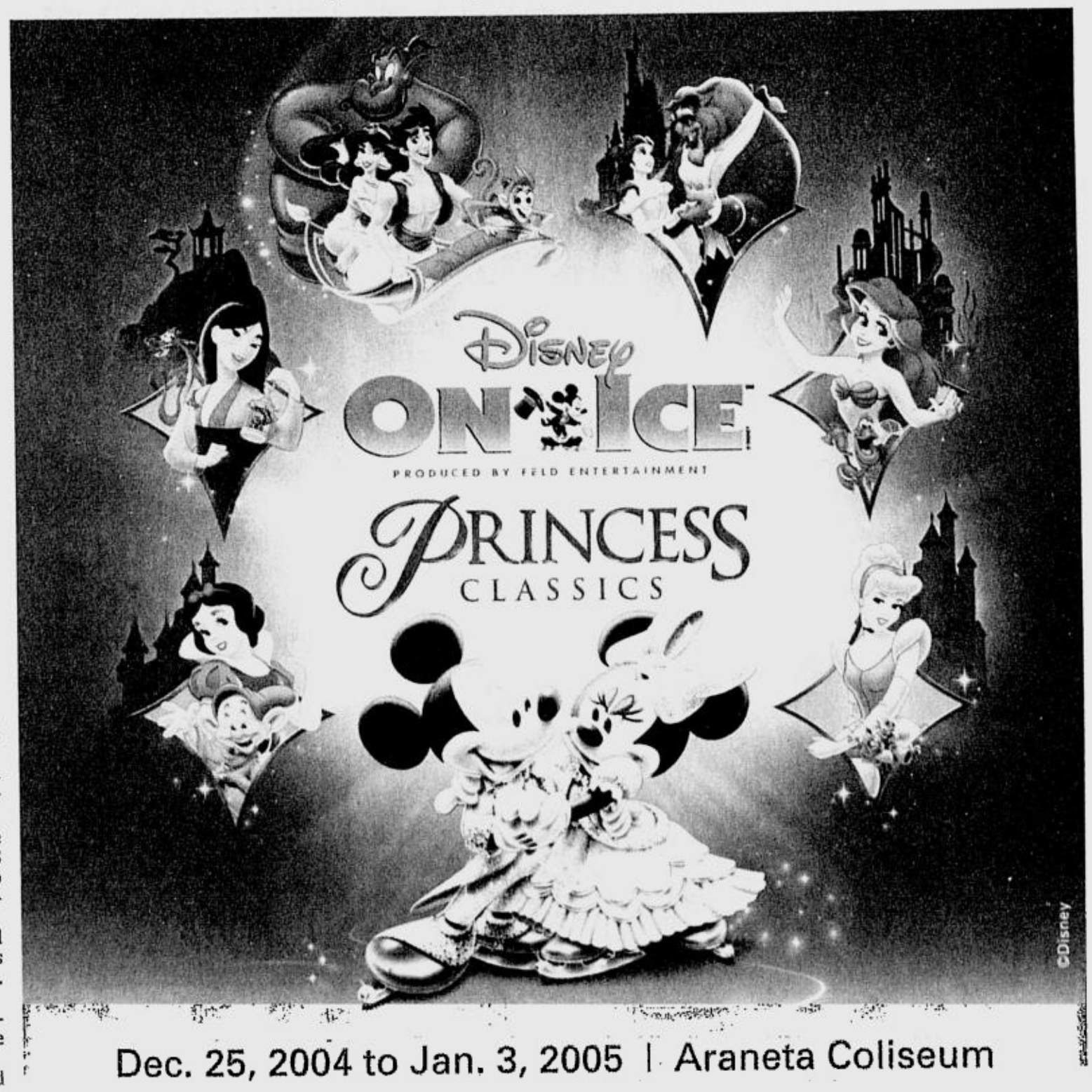


Dec. 25, 2004 to Jan. 3, 2005 | Araneta Coliseum

# Nokia Holiday at Glorietta

SANTA Claus, the most recognizable Christmas character who is a big part of the gift-giving season and also represents happiness and joy, is believed to have come from a place near Rovaniemi in Finland.

Finland is also known for its reindeer and the natural phenomenon known as the aurora borealis or the northern lights. Another thing Finland takes much pride in, and to which Filipinos can relate is Nokia, the world's leading mobile phone supplier.

**SHOW TIME**

Like Santa, Nokia adds yuletide cheer to the festive season as it greets its supporters with Nokia Holiday, which happens this weekend, Dec. 17-19, at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Today, the Akafellas are expected to serenade the crowd with Christmas carols and give surprises as Nokia presents its latest mobile phones and original phone enhancements.

Explore the Nokia Holiday Castle with its different theme corners. E-mail Santa using the Nokia 9500 Communicator in Santa's workshop. Visit the Doll/Gift factory with Nokia's latest fashion collection phones.

Test your N-Gage QD skills and be rewarded in Santa's Game Room. Be the first to see upcoming Nokia products, and get a chance to have a photo taken with Santa at the Pavilion and Gallery using Nokia 6630, and have it printed at the Kodak Kiosk.

Christmas icons will be given at the entrance. Special prizes are at stake every hour.

# Geneva kicks off holiday tour

GENEVA Cruz kicks off her holiday bar tour with a performance at the Dish at ABS-CBN Compound in Quezon City tomorrow, Dec. 18, with special guests Ken and Chino and the Ntwine Band.

"I'll be singing my own songs like 'Kailan,' 'Paraiso' and the songs I had written for my latest album but were not included," Geneva told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I'll also sing 'Di Na 'Ko Aasa' which I wrote for my ex-husband (Paco Arrespacochaga), and 'On That Perfect Night' which he wrote for me."

**SHOW TIME**

Sponsored by Smart Buddy, the concert series continues with a pre-New Year show at the grand opening of Ratsky's newest outlet on Boracay on Dec. 30, as well as other shows in other popular watering holes in Manila until February 2005.

Geneva's yuletide shows serve as a fitting homecoming bash for the sultry singer who recently completed the second leg of her international tours. From September to November, Geneva circled the Asian circuit, and soon after hied off to Europe for another series of shows.

"It's been a grueling string of shows," she exclaims, "but it was worth it. There's nothing like seeing for yourself how pop music has become so much part of the cultural mainstream in cities where you least expect it to be."

"And more importantly," she adds, "as an artist trying to broaden my musical horizons, it flatters me no end to see for myself how Filipino musicians are always held in such high regard wherever and whenever they perform overseas."

Geneva was surprised when she was asked to perform at the recently concluded China-Asean Expo, held Nov. 3-6 in Nanning, China. The four-day event culminated in an international music festival highlighted by the presence of pop-classical violin virtuoso Vanessa Mae and other prominent pop stars from the other Asean countries.

Geneva was personally chosen for her stature as "an extraordinary artist encompassing both traditional and Philippine music and western styles."

Even with the holiday rush, Geneva feels no need to slacken off. "After having been away for

GENEVA/ A3-3

GENEVA CRUZ performs at Dish tomorrow night.


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SM Southmall Cinema 8 | SM Fairview Cinema 7

BAD SANTA SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 5 | SM North Edsa Cinema 5 | SM Sucat Cinema 2 | SM Southmall Cinema 1
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 7 | SM Megamall Cinema 5 | SM Bicutan Cinema 3

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING BCUZ OF U
SM Fairview Cinema 9 | SM Southmall Cinema 9 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10 | SM Manila Cinema 12

HAROLD AND KUMAR SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM North Edsa Cinema 6 | SM Tutuban Cinema 2 | SM Southmall Cinema 4 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 4 | SM Bicutan Cinema 2 | SM Sucat Cinema 1 | SM Manila Cinema 2

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING HONEY
SM Tutuban Cinema 1 | SM Southmall Cinema 2 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9 | SM Manila Cinema 5
SM North Edsa Cinema 8 | SM Megamall Cinema 9

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB RATING: G
SM Manila Cinema 1& 6 | SM North Edsa Cinema 7 | SM Sta Mesa Cinema 5 | SM Bicutan Cinema 4
SM Fairview Cinema 6 | SM Megamall Cinema 3 | SM Southmall Cinema 3 | SM Sucat Cinema 3

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING PA-SIYAM
SM Manila Cinema 9 | SM North Edsa Cinema 3 | SM Southmall Cinema 7 | SM Fairview Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 8 | SM Sta Mesa Cinema 1 | SM Tutuban Cinema 3

2046 MTRCB RATING: R13 — SM Bacoor Cinema 3 | SM Fairview Cinema 3

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB RATING: PG 13 — SM Manila Cinema 10 | SM Megamall Cinema 11 | SM Sucat Cinema 4 | SM Bicutan Cinema 1

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING — SM Manila Cinema 11 | SM North Edsa Cinema 2 | SM Southmall Cinema 6 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 3

NED KELLY SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING — SM Fairview Cinema 4

ONE MISSED CALL MTRCB RATING: R13 — SM Manila Cinema 8 | SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 6 | SM Southmall Cinema 10 | SM Fairview Cinema 1

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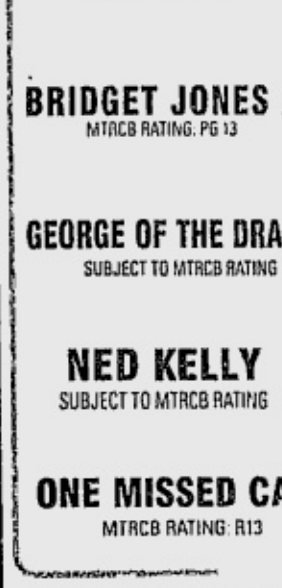


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SM MEGAMALL
MTRCB Rating: G

SM Cinema unleashes Washington's scandal of the century Through his connections to the underworld and for a huge amount of money, a Hamburg publisher succeeds in getting his hands on a tape with a recording of a secret and intimate conversation between the President and his intern. However, just prior to the big press conference, the revealing tape is accidentally exchanged with his daughter Nina's Japanese lessons tape who, unknowingly flies with the evidence in her handbag to Munich. As soon as her father realizes what has happened, he tries to get the best bodyguards money can buy to protect her However, thanks to the efforts of the German Secret Service and the CIA, both of which are eager to get their hands on the tape, Nina ends up with the two biggest goofs in town, Erkan and Stefan.

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star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

STARMALL Alabang (Filinvest Corporate City) Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Santa Santita
4 Ned Kelly
5 Salat sa Ligaya

METROPOLIS STAR Alabang Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 HellWolf
2 Salat sa Ligaya
3 Honey
4 Santa Santita
5 Alexander
6 Bad Santa

STARMALL Edsa-Shaw Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Polar Express
2 Santa Santita

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MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

PREMIERE THEATRE (Ortigas)
1 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES GP
2 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE GP
3 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES PG13
4 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN 2 GP
5 (DOLBY) SHREK 2 GP

SUPER CINERAMA (Cinerama Complex Recto tel 733.4238)
1. (DOLBY) BIRTH
2. ALEXANDER
3. NED KELLY
4. ONE MISSED CALL
5. SALAT

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SALAT
2 SEED OF CHUCKY

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) GINGER SNAP
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 SKY CAPTAIN
4 (DTS) SALAT

Filinvest Festival Cinema (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PA-SIYAM
2 (DOLBY) CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 (DTS) POLAR EXPRESS
4 (GOLD DTS) 2046
5 (GOLD DOLBY) BIRTH
6 (GOLD DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 (GOLD DOLBY) ALEXANDER
8 (DIGITAL) BCUZ OF U
9 (DIGITAL) SEED OF CHUCKY
10 (DIGITAL) BRIDGET JONES

Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 PASIYAM
3 SALAT

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SEED OF CHUCKY
2 AFTER THE SUNSET
3 THE SIN
4 RESERVED

Starmall Movies (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS
2 SANTA SANTITA

Eastwood Cinemas (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN 2
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
3 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES
4 (DOLBY) SHREK 2

The Center of Entertainment Greenhills Center
4th MALL CINEPLEX Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) HAROLD & KUMAR
5 (DTS) BAD SANTA
6 (Dolby) HONEY
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

Starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SANTA SANTITA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) NED KELLY
5 SALAT SA LIGAYA

METROPOLIS Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 HELLWOLF
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA
3 HONEY
4 SANTA SANTITA
5 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
6 BAD SANTA

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# Geneva kicks off holiday bar tour

From page A3-2

quite some time, I feel the need to touch base again with my fans," she says.

"I'm also proud to be back under the management of ALV Production, headed by my very good friend and mentor, Arnold Vegafria."

"And besides," she adds, "this bar tour should also serve as a prelude to a big Valentine's Day show that we're cooking up for next year."

The former Smokey Mountain singer is also preparing new material for her new album, slated for release by mid-2005. She's also planning to further her acting career soon, and is eyeing potential leads in the movies and TV soaps.

"I'm very excited about it because I'm planning to do duets with some of the biggest names in the live concert arena, who also happen to by my good friends," Geneva says.

In the meantime, watch Geneva sizzle at the Dish tomorrow night as she flaunts her curves, her steamy and sizzling dance routines, and her rendition of pop and R&B favorites.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
### MANILA

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPAGORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

### QUEZON CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | SALAT SA LIGAYA |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

### NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

| | |
|---|---|
| A | SALAT SA LIGAYA |
| B | CLOSED |
| C | |

### MANDALUYONG CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA 1 2 3 4 | RATIONAL TREASURE / BRIDGET JONES / SPIDERMAN 2 / SHREK 2 |
| PREMIERE THEATRE | THE INCREDIBLES |

### CAINTA RIZAL

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | 2046 |
| CINEMA-2 | SALAT |
| CINEMA-3 | POLAR EXPRESS |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | HONEY |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-6 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-7 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-8 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | HAROLD & KUMAR |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | ALEXANDER |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | BAD SANTA |
| CINEMA-12 | NATIONAL TREASURE |
| CINEMA-14 | 1 MISSED CALL |
| CINEMA-15 | B CUZ OF U |

### LORES

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

### NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PINAS) | BOURNE SUPREMACY |
| CINEMA-1 | FENG SHUI |
| CINEMA-2 | SECRET WINDOW |
| CINEMA-4 | BANGKOK HAUNTED 2 |

### UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |


## POWER PLANT CINEMA

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| POLAR EXPRESS GP 12:55,3:00,5:05 ALEXANDER R13 7:10,10:10 | NATIONAL TREASURE GP 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10 | BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00 |
| HAROLD AND KUMAR R13 1:20,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00 | SHARK TALE GP 12:30,5:00,9:30 INCREDIBLES GP 2:30,7:00 | BAD SANTA 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05 |

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CINEMA 2 — HAROLD & KUMAR 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 8:55 R13

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1 NATIONAL TREASURE FS 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM 7:20PM, LMF 10:00PM (GP)

2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON) FS 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, LMF 9:45PM (PG-13)

3 SPIDERMAN 2 FS 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, LMF 10:00PM (GP)

4 SHREK 2 FS 12:10PM, 2:30PM, 4:50PM, 7:10PM, LMF 9:30PM (GP)

PREMIERE THEATRE — THE INCREDIBLES (GP) FS 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, LMF 9:30PM

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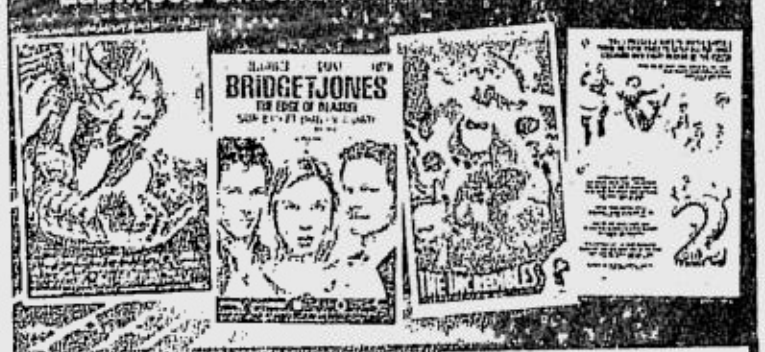


EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 SPIDERMAN 2 — 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30 GP

2 BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2 — 10:30, 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50 PG-13

3 THE INCREDIBLES — 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:30 GP

4 SHREK 2 — 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:30 GP

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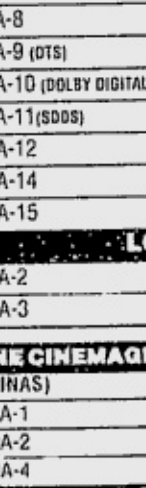

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2 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:25 3:10 6:55 8:40

3 BAD SANTA 12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

4 BRIDGET JONES 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

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3 ALEXANDER 12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30

4 HAROLD & KUMAR 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

5 BAD SANTA 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:20

6 HONEY 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 8:55

7 BCUZ OF U 12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40

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Dec. 26 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm
Dec. 27 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm
Dec. 28 DISNEY ON ICE 6pm
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Dec. 30 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm

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## • METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

### GALLERIA — 632-9115/16

1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:30 3:00 6:30 10:00

2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

3 NED KELLY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:00

5 BIRTH 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

7 SHREK 2 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 HONEY 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

9 BAD SANTA 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

10 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

### ERMITA — 536-7809 to 12

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 BAD SANTA 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 6:30 10:00

3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30 10:00

4 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

5 RESERVE

6 HONEY 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 9:50

### METRO EAST — 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 ALEXANDER 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

3 SHREK 2 11:50 1:45
BRIDGET JONES 2 3:55 6:25 9:00

4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:50 12:50 2:50
2046 4:50 7:05 9:20

5 HONEY 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05

7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

8 BAD SANTA 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

### NOVALICHES — 935-3229/31

1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15

2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

3 BIRTH 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55

4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:30 12:30 2:30
2046 4:35 6:50 9:00

5 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:10
ONE MISSED CALL 3:30 5:50 8:30

6 SHREK 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 6:50 8:30

7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55

8 NANG NAK 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55

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### PIONEER — 687-5378

1 ALEXANDER 11:00 2:20 5:40 9:00

2 SHREK 2 11:10 1:05 3:00 4:55 6:50 8:45

3 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:40 3:20 6:00 8:40

4 BAD SANTA 10:35 12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

### Citisquare MALABON — 288-0985 / 2575

1 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:15 3:40 6:05 8:30

3 ALEXANDER 11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30

4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:45 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30

### CAINTA — 240-4661

1 ALEXANDER 10:05 1:15 4:30 8:00

2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20

3 HONEY 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20

4 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:15 2:10 5:05 8:00

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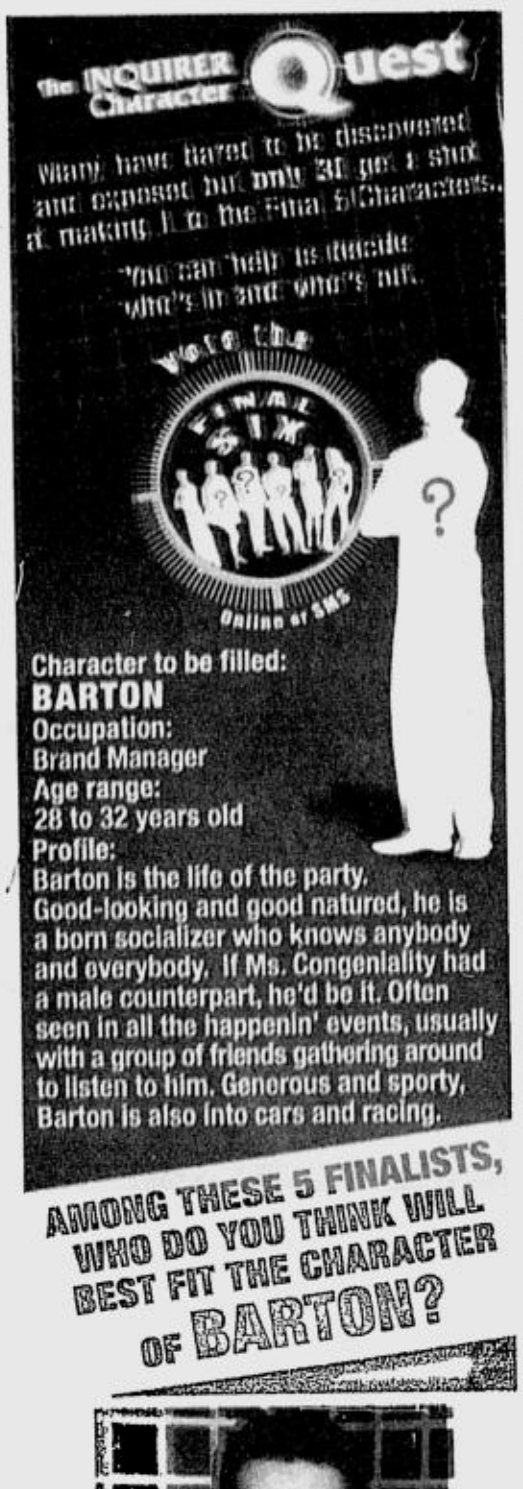





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2004

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# Impossible to prepare Jacko defense, lawyers say

LOS ANGELES—Lawyers for pop star Michael Jackson have "reluctantly" asked a judge to delay his trial on child molestation charges, saying that prosecutors have made it impossible to prepare a defense in time.

Attorneys for Jackson said prosecutors have recently turned over 22,000 pages of discovery material that must be analyzed, and supplied them with a witness list that includes people who don't exist.

They also argued, in court papers submitted Dec. 10 and made public on Tuesday, that a raid on Jackson's Neverland Valley Ranch this month shows that prosecutors were still investigating the 46-year-old entertainer.

Lawyers for Jackson said they believed Santa Barbara County District Attorney Tom Sneddon was not prepared to go forward with a trial and may have conducted the search to force a delay.

JACKSON

"The defense is hesitant to, in essence, give the district attorney what he wanted by requesting a continuance," Jackson's attorneys said in the court papers. "However, given the facts articulated below, it has become clear that a continuance is necessary to protect Mr. Jackson's right to a fair trial."

## Gag order

Separately, Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville has ordered a member of Jackson's defense team to appear in his courtroom next week to explain why he should not be held in contempt of court for remarks he made to a New York newspaper.

Prosecutors asked that attorney Brian Oxman be held in contempt for speaking about the case to a New York Post reporter, which they claim violates Melville's gag order in the case.

Melville has barred the parties from discussing the case in substance.

Jackson, charged in a 10-count indictment with child molestation and conspiracy, is to stand trial on Jan. 31. The singer has pleaded innocent.

*Reuters*

ALL SMILES. Kris Aquino (center) is flanked by fellow cast members of 'So Happy Together.' From left, Rainier Castillo, Yasmien Kurdi, Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras.

# Mother Lily's magic eye

YOU'VE got to hand it to Regal's "Mother Lily" Monteverde.

After 40 years of discovering, honing and creating stars, she still hasn't lost her magic eye for talent. As publications crown their "personalities of the year," it comes as no surprise that those selected from show biz were already anointed by Mother Lily to appear in a single Regal Film, the pioneering, gal-meets-gay comedy, "So Happy Together."

Here's a quick rundown of just some of the honors recently bestowed on the cast members:

Kris Aquino is one of People Asia Magazine's "Showbiz People of the Year," together with "American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias. Kris' wonderful, versatile work as a comedienne in "So Happy Together" is bound to have people buzzing well into the coming year. A hilarious scene in the movie which has Kris being "manhandled" by best friend Eric Quizon is reportedly giving the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) members bellyaches and headaches.

**SHOW TIME**

Mark Herras, the "Starstruck" winner, has been voted Most Popular Young Male Star by readers of Yes! Magazine. He and "Starstruck" co-winner Jennylyn Mercado were also voted the Most Popular Love Team. Mark and Jennylyn make their movie debuts in "So Happy Together." But to give credit where credit is due, it was Kris Aquino's idea to cast them.

Jennylyn Mercado is now a gold record awardee. Her debut album, "Living the Dream," has sold more than 30,000 legal copies. That's nothing to sneeze at during this time of rampant piracy. Jennylyn was also voted Most popular Young Female Star by Yes! readers.

Jennylyn plays Kris' rebellious daughter in "So Happy Together," and not even her mom can stop her from marrying Xander (Mark Herras).

Eric Quizon, while filming "So Happy together," received word that he had been chosen as associate director for the Hollywood film, "Wrinkles." The Filipino-American film will be shown in mainstream American cinemas, and has already been picked by HBO. So, right after finishing work on "So Happy Together," Eric flew to the US.

Those who've seen Eric's hilarious, moving work as Kris Aquino's best friend in "So Happy Together" agree it is award-worthy.

And last but not least, four cast members—Jay-R, Rainier Castillo, Mark Herras, and Cogie Domingo—were included by the editors of S Magazine in their list of "Top 50 Pinoy Heartthrobs."

The comedy, an entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival, opens in theaters nationwide on Dec. 25. It is written by Ricky Lee and directed by Joel Lamangan, produced by Roselle Monteverde-Teo and executive-produced by Lily Yu Monteverde for Regal Entertainment.

# Hilary Swank to play real-life murderer

GLAMOROUS KILLER. Hilary Swank

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank will play a femme fatale in "The Black Dahlia," the film version of a mysterious real-life murderer in Los Angeles, the industry press said Tuesday.

Swank, 30, who won the best actress Academy Award for her role as a cross-dressing woman in 1999's "Boys Don't Cry" joins fellow Hollywood stars Josh Hartnett and Scarlett Johansson in the cast of the new Brian De Palma film.

"This has shaped up to be a strong young cast with material and themes that play to Brian's strengths," said one of the producers, Art Linson, who also worked on De Palma's hit "The Untouchables."

Entertainment industry bible Daily Variety reported that the role in the picture, which tells the story of two former boxers-turned-policemen investigating the brutal murder of a woman, calls for Swank to go glamorous.

Her character is a seductress who is the spitting image of the murder victim in the adaptation of James Ellroy's novel, which was in turn based on the brutal 1940s murder of an African-American woman that sent shockwaves through Los Angeles.

The film, which has a budget of more than $30 million, is being produced by Avi Lerner, Linson, Rudy Cohen and Moshe Diamant and is due to begin filming in Bulgaria in April.

Swank was nominated Monday for two Golden Globe Awards for her less glamorous roles in Clint Eastwood's female boxing film "Million Dollar Baby" and in HBO television's "Iron Jawed Angels."

*AFP*

# Barry Manilow series to revive aging Vegas Hilton

LAS VEGAS— Barry Manilow, famous for songs such as "Mandy" and "Copacabana," has signed a long-term deal to perform at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

Manilow will perform five nights a week for 24 weeks through 2005 and into 2006, executives announced Tuesday. The 90-minute show premieres Feb. 24 and is called "Manilow: Music and Passion."

Executives declined to discuss contract details.

Manilow said at a news conference that playing Las Vegas made perfect sense after he made the decision to stop touring.

He said the show will include singers, dancers, a large band and new songs.

"It won't be static," Manilow said. "It will change every night."

His theater will hold about 1,700 people after renovations.

Manilow, who said he intends to write a Las Vegas theme song similar to "New York, New York," is following in the footsteps of Elvis Presley, who once performed at the Hilton, and other singers such as Celine Dion, Elton John and Gladys Knight.

Asked if he had gotten any tips from Dion about living and performing in Las Vegas, Manilow said no, but added: "I'll give her a call."

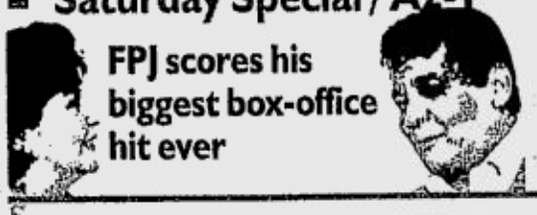
The Manilow deal is part of a plan to reinvigorate the aging Las Vegas Hilton.

Casino giant Caesars Entertainment Inc. sold the property to a subsidiary of Los Angeles-based Colony Capital LLC earlier this year in a deal worth $280 million.

Rudy Prieto, Las Vegas Hilton chief executive and general manager, said Manilow will help restore the luster to the 3,000-room hotel-casino that was built in 1969.

HE'LL WRITE a new song, Manilow promises.

■ Saturday Special / A2-1



**FPJ scores his biggest box-office hit ever**

■ World / A8

**Bin Laden tells fighters to hit Gulf oil supplies**

■ Super / G1

**Jolina, Sandara, Echo in dream movie roles**

■ News / A2

**Largest haul of blasting powder seized in Cavite**

Tanong ng Bayan / A16

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## Da King had 5 best traits Filipinos seek in a hero

By Volt Contreras

ON THIS, scholars of Philippine culture agree: On- or off-screen, whether throwing choreographed punches or secretly handing out gifts, Fernando Poe Jr. supplied the top qualities that Filipinos seek in a hero.

The Filipinos' concept of spirituality, their

DA KING/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Saturday, December 18, 2004 ★★ 120 pages 16 sections Vol. 19 No. 10 P18 | website: www.inq7.net

## ABS-CBN survey says public agrees with Susan

By Fe Zamora and Luige A. del Puerto

WHEN Da King's widow Susan Roces complained that her late husband had been "belittled" and cheated by his political enemies, the public

ABS-CBN/ A21

# Susan presses attack: Nobody will tell us to shut up

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE OPPOSITION appears to have found a powerful voice in Susan Roces.

Although her family, supporters and opposition politicians are quick to reiterate what the widow of Fernando Poe Jr. herself has said more than once—that she is not jumping into politics—the statements she made in interviews with the giant TV networks indicated that her voice as a private citizen would be no less scathing.

A conversation between Roces and 10 young members of the House, which took place yesterday shortly after midnight at the St. Martin's Chapel a few feet away from where her husband's coffin stands, again underscored this point.

"My personal goal is to unearth the truth. Then we can proceed with whatever has to be done," Roces told the lawmakers who had come bearing a House resolution, signed by Speaker Jose de Venecia and set in a frame, expressing condolences on her husband's death.

She said that in time, "nobody will tell us to shut up"—an apparent reference to the note sent to then Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen by a woman from the gallery who was annoyed by his questioning of the manner in which the votes in the May presidential election were being canvassed.

"And also," Roces said, apparently referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation in the wee hours, "we will not proclaim in an hour when everyone is sleeping, like a thief in the night."

Poe, the standard-bearer of the opposition, lost to Ms Arroyo by over a million votes in the canvass. His election protest is pending at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

The meeting that the INQUIRER witnessed particularly showed the depth of Roces' understanding of Philippine politics, according to Rep. Darlene Custodio-Antonino, deputy minority leader.

"The [Poe] couple obviously discussed the problems [of the nation]. They saw what the problems were. It's just now that it is coming out how much they have talked about the problems of the people," Custodio

SUSAN/ A21

REM ZAMORA

**NOW SHOWING** inside the Sto. Domingo Church compound are FPJ movies, a treat for the long and slow-moving line of weary mourners who keep turning out by the thousands to see their fallen idol.

# JDV loses 'light of my life'

**TOGETHER:** Arm-in-arm the De Venecias are a portrait of the quintessential happy family. From right, KC, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Gina and Christopher de Venecia.

By Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana and Margaux C. Ortiz

THREE WORDS—and then her cell phone went dead.

"Ate! Help! Help!"

That was the desperate cry that rang through the cell phone of Maria Kristina Casimira "KC" de Venecia , 16-year-old daughter of Speaker Jose de Venecia, on Thursday night as walls of flame turned 2288 Magnolia St., Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, into an inferno.

It was not clear what KC did after her words were cut off but some two hours later, firemen found her body bundled in a wet blanket in a bathroom. She had apparently died of suffocation.

The 8th grade student at the International School was the lone fatality in the three-hour blaze which investigators said could have been caused by the strings of Christmas lights coiled around the main staircase.

According to the house staff, they saw the Christmas tree burst into flames, firemen said.

"We repeatedly tried to go inside with the brave firemen of Makati but this fire was so strong and the smoke was so heavy," De Venecia told reporters. "Mayor Jojo Binay was with us

JDV LOSES/ A22

REM ZAMORA

**NO WORDS:** Still stunned, Gina de Venecia gets a hug from President Arroyo at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati, where KC's wake is being held until her interment on Dec. 22.

## KC on life: 'See what is good in everything'

By Carlito Pablo and Nancy C. Carvajal

HER death bore all the irony of a tragedy: A girl living in a magnificent home and trapped in a room with no exit as the flames roared toward her. Daughter of one of the most powerful men in the Philippines—and there was no one who could help her.

Maria Kristina Casimira (KC) de Venecia was one young girl who did not believe in giving up, friends said, and to her last moment, she did not.

Showing her presence of mind as fire raged through the family residence in Dasmariñas Village, KC apparently wrapped herself in a wet blanket and ran to the bathroom, hoping she would be safe there.

But she did not reckon with the fury of the flames and the terrible power of their smoke.

KC ON LIFE/ A22

## 75.6% of businessmen dissatisfied with gov't

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A MAJORITY of Filipino and foreign businessmen are dissatisfied with the performance of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the past six months, according to a survey of leading foreign and local business organizations released yesterday.

The President got failing marks in almost all key economic concerns from carrying out fiscal reforms to curbing corruption to addressing the population issue, according to a joint survey of members of five foreign chambers led by the American Chamber of Commerce and two local business groups led by the Makati Business Club.

The survey showed that 75.6 percent of respondents were dissatisfied with the administration's performance, including 32.6 percent that was "extremely dissatisfied" and 43 percent that was "somewhat dissatisfied" with Ms Arroyo who was assessed since she took office on June 30.

Only 21.6 percent said they were "somewhat satisfied" with the administration's overall performance.

The survey showed a large majority of the country's top business executives believe the President was not doing enough or just "barely enough" to address the fiscal

75.6% OF BUSINESSMEN/ A6

## GMA approval rating still down at negative 5%

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo suffered another drop in her public satisfaction rating in the latest survey of the Social Weather Stations, which showed the President's performance being uniformly deplored throughout all classes and regions of the country, giving her a net approval rating of negative 5 percent.

The President was given the "thumbs down" on a host of issues, ranging from helping the poor and troubled Filipinos in the Middle East to ensuring that no family would go hungry, fighting crime, collecting taxes and eradicating corruption.

The SWS' 4th-quarter survey found 38 percent satisfied and 43 percent dissatisfied with the performance of Ms Arroyo, giving her a net satisfaction rating of negative 5 percent, one percentage point higher than her negative 6 percent in a previous survey a month before.

The SWS said it surveyed 1,200 people between Nov. 23 and Dec. 2, 2004. It said the survey had a margin of error of three percent and a 95 percent confidence level.

According to the SWS, the President's neg-

GMA APPROVAL/ A6



**ON TRIAL** for conduct unbecoming, Gen.Carlos Garcia with his lawyer Constantino de Jesus. JOAN BONDOC

## Detained general wants to be home for Christmas

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAN detained for unexplained wealth wants a holiday during the holidays.

Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, accused of amassing P143 million in cash and various assets through questionable means, yesterday asked the general court-martial for a four-day Christmas and New Year break to be with his family.

In a letter, Garcia asked that he be permitted to leave his detention quarters at Camp Aguinaldo from 8 a.m. on Christmas Eve until 8 a.m. on Dec. 26, and from 8 a.m. on New Year's Eve to 8 a.m. on Jan. 2.

Military prosecutors immediately rejected the request, which court-martial president Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio read toward the end of yesterday's hearing.

"I have never ever crossed a situation where an accused who is facing serious charges before a general court-martial is allowed what is equivalent to a Christmas pass," Lt. Col. Pedro Davila, assistant military prosecutor, told the general court-martial.

"With all due respect, especially to General Garcia, especially in such a sensitive situation that we are facing today, I very respectfully and humbly disagree and oppose the re

DETAINED/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANO, PDI RESEARCH/12/18/04

# 100 sacks=30,000 dynamites

## *Largest seizure of blasting powder and detonating fuse in country*

By Emir Emano Gamis
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

**IMUS, Cavite—Authorities seized an elf van containing 100 sacks of ammonium nitrate that could produce about 30,000 dynamite sticks, and detonating cords during a raid on a warehouse in Julugan, Tanza, Cavite on Thursday afternoon.**

The raid was conducted by joint operatives of the Cavite Maritime Police Special Operations Team and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines—National Environment Action Team (IBP-NEAT). It was the second operation led by the IBP-Neat this year.

"This is the largest seizure of blasting powder and detonating fuse in the history of the country. It will paralyze and is meant to paralyze the blast fishing industry in the entire Southern Tagalog area," said lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr., IBP-NEAT chair, and Magallanes Mayor Filomeno Maligaya, head of the Cavite Coastal Towns Anti-Illegal Fishing Team Task Force Rainbow, in a joint statement.

Arrested after the raid on the warehouse were couple Alexander and Rebecca Ochoa, owners of the contraband, and their driver Jovito Perido.

Also seized during the raid were five boxes of timer fuse and two boxes of primex explosives with manufacturer's mark.

**LAWYER Antonio Oposa and Chief Inspector Mario Marasigan point at the van loaded with sacks of ammonium nitrate.** LAW OF NATURE FOUNDATION

Oposa said the confiscated items could damage hundreds of square kilometers of coral reefs. A bottle of blasting powder is said to have an impact on about 20-sq. m radius, while a gallon has a 50-100 sq. m impact.

Chief Insp. Mario Marasigan, head of the Police Maritime Group in Cavite, said the Ochoas owned the warehouse and truck, which members of the Task Force Rainbow simultaneously raided in Barangay Julugan at around 3 p.m. based on two search warrants issued by Judge Aurelio Icasiano of the Trece Martires City.

Oposa filed illegal possession of explosives before the provincial prosecutor's office against the three yesterday.

He said they would also file charges for "dereliction of duty" against Julugan barangay captain Angelito Buenaflor and other village officials.

"We are establishing a new order of public accountability. No foolishness (will happen) in a barangay unless the (officials have knowledge about it) and tolerates it. The barangay officials must answer for this," Oposa explained.

The Ochoas are reputed to be the biggest dealer of blasting caps in Southern Tagalog, according to Oposa.

The Ochoas are also the single biggest supplier of dynamites to unscrupulous fishermen engaged in dynamite fishing in Bataan, Cavite and Batangas provinces.

The operation was the result of a one-week police surveillance on the couple and the warehouse, according to Marasigan.

"Intelligence (operations) was so good, they knew when [and where] the blasting caps will be delivered," Oposa said.

The seized contraband was supposed to be brought somewhere in Binondo or Batangas, according to Marasigan.

"This is a continuing crusade and we are sending this message: We will not stop until we have broken the neck of the blast fishing industry. We will bring them to the bar of justice for destroying the unequalled marine wealth of the country," Oposa said. *With a report from Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Reds plan to declare limited ceasefire

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*
and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila

LUCENA CITY—New People's Army rebels also plan to declare a unilateral ceasefire during the holiday season but would be only limited to certain areas, a rebel spokesperson said yesterday.

In a statement, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the Communist Party of the Philippines is "considering the possibility of a ceasefire in deference to the people's traditional observance of the holidays and to allow the revolutionary masses to celebrate the 36th anniversary of the CPP on Dec. 26."

The CPP announcement came a day after Malacañang declared a 21-day unilateral ceasefire that took effect Dec. 16 and ends on Jan. 5. The ceasefire, however, does not prevent the army and police from conducting defensive operations or pursuing NPA rebels in case of an attack.

"In the past, we declared a two-day ceasefire around Christmas and New Year's Day," Rosal said. "But we are not doing it this year to reciprocate the government's truce offer. We may ask our forces to stand down depending on the situation on the ground—and only in areas where soldiers and policemen are not operating against us."

Rosal said they will issue an official statement in the coming days.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Hiansen testimony a big boost

THE TESTIMONY of Department of Finance executive Ernesto Hiansen is a major boost to the prosecution in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam case, according to Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

Hiansen, head of the DOF's One Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center, had filed an affidavit which is now being used by the Ombudsman as a "road map" to pin down government officials and private individuals involved in the multibillion-peso scam. Yesterday, Hiansen formally signed a memorandum of agreement that he would help the government in its case against the Chingkoe group of companies in exchange for immunity from the suit. Hiansen is the fourth witness to be granted immunity to help government prosecutors pin down Faustino Chingkoe and other persons accused of defrauding the government P2.4 billion out of the P5.3 billion in tax credit certificates (TCC) scam. "He is a very qualified, knowledgeable and competent witness," Villa-Ignacio said. "That is why he is being demolished by the other group," he said. *Armand N. Nocum*

### American sought over Davao blast

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has asked the US Embassy for help to track down an American citizen who was suspected to be behind an explosion in a Davao hotel in 2002. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he asked American authorities to help determine the whereabouts in the United States of Michael Meiring, a suspect in the blast that damaged the Evergreen Hotel in Davao on May 16, 2002. "I am writing the US Embassy to seek their assistance in this case," Gonzalez said. Meiring faces two arrest warrants for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition and for reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property. *Philip C. Tubeza*

### P5.5M for Children's Hour at The Fort

SOME 55 companies donated a total of P5.5 million to the Children's Hour during a benefit lunch, dubbed More Food for the Soul, at the NBC Tent, The Fort, on Dec. 16. Aside from the cash donations, the companies pledged an additional P1.6 million for 2005. Children's Hour also announced the beneficiary organizations. More Food for the Soul was organized by Makati Business Club executive director and Children's Hour trustee Guillermo Luz. The full course lunch was prepared by master chef Billy King.

Children's Hour raises funds by calling on individuals and companies to donate an hour's worth of their salary annually. Since August 2002, it has raised more than P33 million from 403 companies and 157,000 employees. The donor companies include Union Bank, Landbank of the Philippines, AIG Group, Mirant Foundation, Makati Business Club, Nation Broadcasting Corporation, Smart Telecommunications, Globe Telecom, Jollibee and Ayala Group of Companies, among others. For details, visit www.childrenshour.org.ph or email ask@childrenshour.org.ph.

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# Sandigan files graft raps vs Army colonel

By Armand N. Nocum

ANOTHER ranking military official was charged with graft before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly awarding a P1.7-million communications equipment to a supplier not officially registered with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Charged with graft was Col. Martin R. Virtudazo Jr., former chair of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Bids Negotiation and Awards Committee of the AFP-Communications Electronics Service, along with other unnamed officials.

Virtudazo allegedly conspired with the owner of the Ronbans Enterprises in the purchase of 20 modules of digital local lines in 1997, despite knowing that the firm was not registered with the DTI, which made it an unqualified bidder.

"It appears that there was laxity and negligence on the part of the BNAC members in allowing Ronbans Enterprises to tender its bid and ultimately award thereto the contract for the supplies of (20) modules digital local lines despite the fact that it is not an officially registered business with the (DTI)," said the four-page memorandum approved by Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo on Dec. 16.

The Ombudsman also charged Ronald Andres, owner of Ronbans Enterprises, with graft.

Marcelo also ordered a preliminary investigation of other members of the bids and awards committee to determine their criminal liability in the offense.

They included a "Major Vinoya, L.C., Jr., Capt. Calapis P.A., Capt. Sera R.A. PA and SSG Judith Escarilla."

# Congress goes on recess for Christmas holidays

By Michael Lim Ubac

CONGRESS went on recess starting yesterday for the Christmas holidays without passing three other vital tax measures which Malacañang earlier lobbied for enactment before the end of the year.

Only the bill raising the excise taxes on so-called sin products such as cigarettes and alcohol was passed by the bicameral conference committee.

But senators said the passage of the sin tax bill before the two chambers adjourned Thursday night was enough to make President Macapagal-Arroyo happy during the holidays.

"We ended up the legislative year on a positive note with the passage of sin taxes," said Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan who moved to adjourn the session for the long holiday break.

The higher excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products which will be imposed starting January 2005 are seen to generate P15 billion in revenues for the government.

The sin tax bill, to be signed by Ms Arroyo next week, is the centerpiece of the eight tax bills proposed by Malacañang to avoid a debt default in the next three years by raising as much as P80 billion in additional revenues.

Still up for floor deliberations are the bills on lateral attrition, tax amnesty and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

Senate President Franklin Drilon banged the gavel to formally adjourn the last session for the year to the applause of his fellow senators. Congress will resume sessions on Jan. 10, 2005.

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**DECEMBER 18 Saturday**

*8:30 AM to 2:30 PM*
Ylaya-Tondo

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Araneta Center
Comercio
New Divisoria Market
Sta. Mesa
Tanay

*12:00 NN to 6:00 PM*
Divisoria Center

**DECEMBER 30 Thursday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Concepcion-Malabon
Dart Street-Paco
EDSA-Cubao Aurora
Farmers Plaza
Folgueras
Head Office
Honorio Lopez Blvd.-Balut
Pritil-Tondo
Sta. Mesa
Sto. Cristo-CM Recto
Tutuban

*10:00 AM to 4:00 PM*
Ortigas-Robinson's Galleria

*12:00 NN to 6:00 PM*
Divisoria Center

**DECEMBER 31 Friday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Head Office
Quiapo
Sto. Cristo-San Nicolas

### LUZON

**DECEMBER 18 Saturday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Agoo
Aparri
Baguio-Bonifacio
Baguio-Magsaysay Blvd.
Baguio-Session
Bangued-Abra
Batac
Benguet-La Trinidad
Calamba Market
Candon
Daet
La Union Main
La Union-ML Quezon
Laoag-Gen. Segundo
Legaspi-Mabini
Lucena, Quezon
Naga Main
Paseo de Sta. Rosa
San Pablo Main
Santiago City Road
Santiago-Maharlika
Solano
Sorsogon
Sta. Cruz-Laguna
Sta. Rosa-Balibago
Tuguegarao-Balzain
Tuguegarao-Luna

**DECEMBER 30 Thursday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Alaminos
Apalit, Pampanga
Baguio-Carlño
Baguio-Magsaysay Blvd.
Baguio-Session
Balanga, Bataan
Balluag-JP Rizal
Balluag-Trinidad
Cabanatuan Maharlika-North
Cabanatuan Maharlika-South
Cabanatuan Main
Cabanatuan-Paco Roman
Calamba Crossing
Calamba Real
Canlubang-Carmelray
Cauayan
Dagupan-Fernandez
Dagupan-Perez
Dinalupihan, Bataan
Gapan
Guagua
Hagonoy, Bulacan
Iba, Zambales
Ilagan
Laguna Technopark
Laoag Main
Lingayen
Lucena-Red V
Naga-Gen. Luna
Olongapo
Olongapo-Gapan Highway
San Fernando-B. Mendoza
San Fernando-Dolores
San Fernando Main
San Fernando-Sindalan
San Jose, Nueva Ecija
San Miguel, Bulacan
San Pablo-Colago
Subic-Baraca
Subic Bay
Vigan

**DECEMBER 31 Friday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Dagupan Main
Iriga, Camarines Sur
San Carlos, Pangasinan
Tabaco

### VISAYAS

**DECEMBER 30 Thursday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Antique
Bacolod-Gonzaga
Boracay
Cebu-Opon
Cebu-Tabunok
Iloilo-Delgado
Iloilo-Iznart
Kalibo
Roxas
Roxas-Arnaldo

**DECEMBER 31 Friday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Bacolod-6th Street
Bacolod-Araneta
Bacolod-Capitol
Bacolod-Gatuslao
Bacolod-Libertad
Bacolod-North Drive
Cebu-Downtown Center
Cebu-Taboan
Silay
Tacloban Main

### MINDANAO

**DECEMBER 31 Friday**

*9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Butuan
Cagayan de Oro-Cogon
Cagayan de Oro Main
Cotabato-Makakua
Davao-Bajada
Davao Center
Davao-Rizal
Davao-Sta. Ana
Davao-Toril
Dipolog-Gen. Luna
Gen. Santos-Pioneer
Iligan-Gen. Aguinaldo
Pagadian-Rizal
Pagadian-Sta. Lucia
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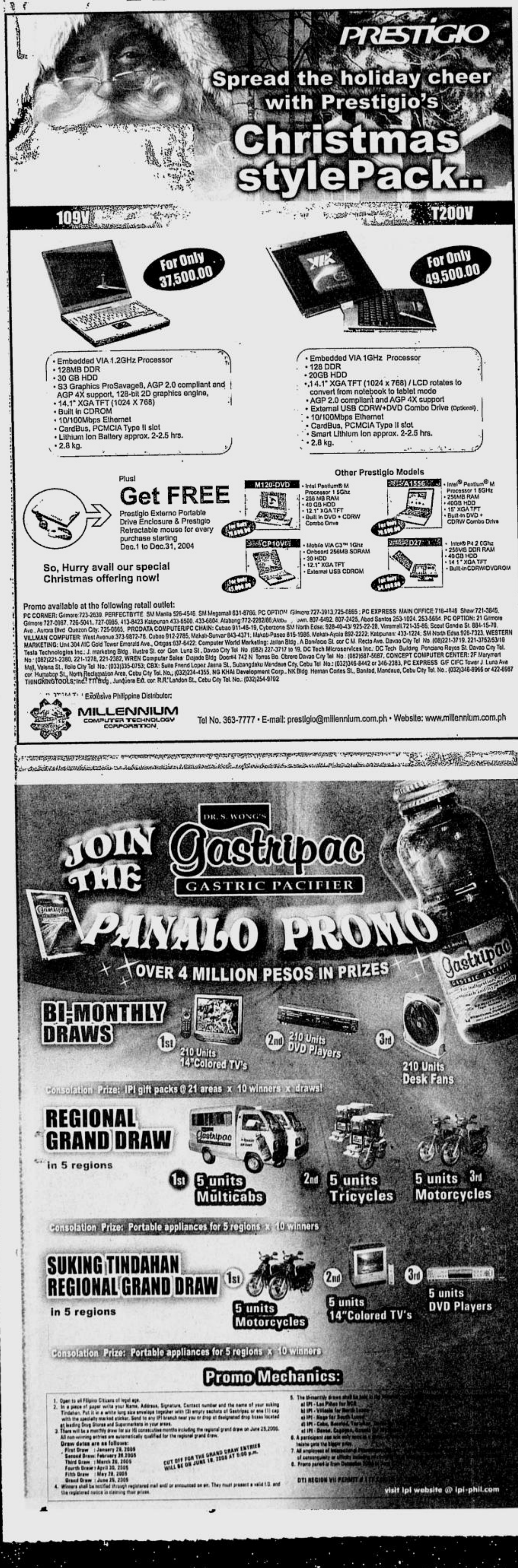
# GMA approval rating still down at negative 5%







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ative rating, which showed little improvement from a previous SWS survey, was brought about by a general drop in public satisfaction with the national administration on several issues and to a decline in public perceptions of the loyalty of the Armed Forces to the President.

A negative rating means that the number of people who disapprove of the President's performance outnumber those who approve.

Ms Arroyo, who rose to the presidency in January 2001 after protests ousted her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, is the only President to score a negative rating in SWS polls since the fall of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

In the previous Oct. 19 to Nov. 2 survey on women and peace, governance and development, 40 percent of those surveyed pronounced themselves satisfied with the President's performance while 46 percent said they were dissatisfied, giving her a net satisfaction rating of negative 6 percent.

Ms Arroyo's ratings from the two successive surveys were a steep drop from the 12 percent she scored last August, two months after she narrowly won a fresh six-year term.

## Blame fiscal reforms

The presidential adviser on communications, Silvestre Afable III, attributed the President's negative rating to the fiscal reforms that she has been undertaking.

He said the President was tackling the public's concerns and was paying the price for her efforts to improve the economy.

"These concerns have been there for a long time and the government is addressing them," he said.

"This has been a trend that has been there for the past month and as we said before, the President is paying a price for the reforms that she has been undertaking and the actions that she has taken to stabilize the economy and bridge the fiscal gap," Afable said in a phone interview with reporters.

Ms Arroyo's plans to fix economic problems, which have coincided with soaring oil prices, involve new taxes, government spending cuts and job losses for thousands of government workers.

## Blessings to count

Afable said there were blessings to count.

"There are other areas of the economy in which we are getting gains. Unemployment is actually doing down, the growth rate of the economy remains steady," he said.

"We are facing transient dislocations but as we can all see we're hurdling the obstacles one by one," he said.

He cited congressional approval of a bill to levy additional taxes on tobacco and alcohol products, the first of eight new tax measures that Ms Arroyo wanted passed to raise P80 billion in revenues.

Afable said the passage of the tax measures would "bring fiscal stability and the return of international confidence in our economy."

According to the SWS survey, people were dissatisfied with the performance of the national administration in general, the SWS noted.

Net satisfaction with the national administration fell from 15 percent in the Aug. 5 to Aug. 22 survey to only 3 percent this month.

## Specific tasks

On seven specific tasks, the administration's performance was satisfactory to 39 percent and not satisfactory to 35 percent of those surveyed. This was much lower than the 48 percent satisfied and 32 percent dissatisfied in the October-November survey.

The public rated the national administration negative in the tasks of fighting crime (from 6 percent in August to negative 12 percent), collecting taxes (from negative 2 percent when last polled in 2002 to negative 17 percent this month), fighting inflation (from negative 43 percent in August to negative 42 percent this month).

The administration scored very low in the task of "ensuring that no family will be hungry."

Fifty-seven percent were dissatisfied with the government's performance in this task and only 23 percent were satisfied, for a net satisfaction rating of negative 34 percent.

After another SWS survey found rising incidence of hunger in the country, Ms Arroyo ordered the distribution of food coupons to the poorest families.

## Little public impact

Another of the President's pet programs, the fight against corruption, also has had little impact on the public.

# *RP can beat corruption in 3 years, says HK expert*

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES can beat corruption in the bureaucracy in less than three years, according to Hong Kong's anti-corruption fighter Tony Man-Wai Kwok, a special adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo in her anti-corruption campaign.

All it needs is political will to put into motion a system that is already in place, said Kwok, a former deputy commissioner of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, who is credited with cleaning up the former British Crown Colony's bureaucracy.

"Political will is not just what we say but what we do," said Kwok who addressed a press conference at the end of a three-day anti-corruption workshop that he conducted in Malacañang for senior government officials.

Among the key recommendations that he gave was to protect the already meager wages of government employees by adopting P4,961 as the maximum amount that can be deducted from salaries of government employees for loan payments.

Kwok said he was confident the job can be done in less than half the term of Ms Arroyo because the Philippines already has the mechanisms for fighting corruption.

The President earlier said it would take her full term to wipe out corruption.

But a survey by the British-based Transparency International, which ranked the Philippines among one of the most corrupt governments in the world, showed that majority of Filipinos (54 percent) expect corruption to become worse in the next three years.

Kwok said the presence of 60 very senior government officials in the workshop demonstrated that they had the political will to implement their pledge to rid the country of corruption.

"It's not just the President herself but senior officials who have a role as head of their respective agencies," he said.

Kwok said the government had made "tremendous improvements in the mechanisms in working against corruption" based on his observations and feedback over the past two years.

Kwok cited the Office of the Ombudsman which he said had developed a "clear professionalism" during the period.

## 4-pronged approach

He said the solution to corruption was "simple and straightforward," with the use of his four-pronged approach of prevention, education, deterrence and partnership.

He gave 22 recommendations during the workshop but he said these were just a beginning.

"They [the officials] have to go back to their agencies and come up with [an] elaborate, more comprehensive action plan for one year," Kwok said.

The administration's efforts in eradicating graft and corruption scored negative 30 percent, from negative 11 percent in May and negative 36 percent in August.

The SWS noted "renewed anxiety" about the loyalty of the Armed Forces, which is now reeling from corruption scandals involving its former comptroller and other top-ranked officers.

On the statement that the AFP is "loyal and obedient" to Ms Arroyo, the commander in chief, 34 percent agreed but 29 percent disagreed.

The SWS said it was the lowest point so far in the Arroyo presidency. The previous survey had 41 percent agreeing that the AFP was loyal to the President.

## AFP loyalty

"The current low perception of AFP loyalty is reminiscent of SWS surveys between September 1989 and April 1992, in the Aquino period, when it ranged between '29 and 38 (percent)," the SWS said.

The Aquino administration was besieged with several coup attempts during that period.

# 75.6% of businessmen ...

From page A1

crisis, combat corruption, attract investments and improve infrastructure.

The Business Opinion Survey Report was conducted from Dec. 8 to 15, 2004, among 215 respondents, 69.1 percent of whom were Filipinos.

The respondents were mostly top managers belonging to corporations with annual revenues of more than P500 million.

"Our intention was to try to find out what the people feel intensely about, good or bad," Bill Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, told AP.

The executive branch was not alone in getting a bad report card from the business leaders who said they were also overwhelmingly dissatisfied with the House of Representatives (85.6 percent) and the Senate (83.8 percent).

The survey found that over 80 percent are dissatisfied with the performance of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"Overall, the survey results indicate the need for renewed focus on key issues, better implementation of programs, and stronger teamwork within the Cabinet and between the Executive and Legislative branches," the survey report said.

It said most businessmen expected that with a combination of a fresh mandate and majority control of Congress, Ms Arroyo would have the "momentum to pursue some key programs" to improve conditions in the country.

# 'Japayukis' seek 5-year reprieve

By TJ Burgonio

HUNDREDS of "performing artists" and their talent managers yesterday picketed the Department of Foreign Affairs, asking officials to convince Japan to defer the implementation of its new immigration policy on entertainers.

Waving flags and banners, and shouting slogans, the large crowd of mostly rowdy protesters pressed officials to seek a five-year moratorium on the new policy, which would drastically cut the number of entertainers from 80,000 to 8,000.

Chided by the US state department for failing to check human trafficking, Japan on Dec. 7, adopted a policy setting aside a foreign government's certification of an entertainer's qualification and requiring a two-year training or two-year experience.

"If that is eventually implemented, everybody can't go to Japan," rued Bernie Salinel, spokesperson of the Philippine Overseas Entertainment Industry Foundation. "That's very strict. If there's a moratorium, then our talents will have time to prepare."

This year, some 60,000 Filipinos had gone to Japan to work as entertainers after acquiring the artists' record book (ARB), a government document that certifies one has gone through the necessary training and testing for her dancing or singing skills.

With the new policy, Filipino entertainers will not be allowed to work in Japan if they merely carry the ARB.

According to industry officials, Japan's move could cut overseas remittances, a lifeline for the economy, by P22.4 billion a year, or about 5 percent of the total, affecting more than two million relatives who depend on the hard-earned yen.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said that he would send Undersecretary Jose Brillantes on a diplomatic mission to Japan to seek a moratorium or work out a transition period for the implementation of the policy.

Romulo said Brillantes could work out new measures to minimize the impact of the new policy on Filipino entertainers.

The problem, according to activists, was that Filipino entertainers didn't seem to do much entertaining when they arrive in Japan's nightclubs and "hostess" bars, at least not in the traditional sense of dancing and singing that Filipinos are world famous for.

The majority ended up catering to the drunken whims of Japanese "salarymen," sitting on laps, lighting cigarettes and pouring beer—and made far more money than they could at home.

But by entering the loosely regulated and crime-connected world of Japanese clubland, activists said, the women became acutely vulnerable to abuse such as being pressured into prostitution or having their wages withheld. *With a report from Reuters*


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INQ TV

ABC

Tuwing Huwebes, 10:00pm

I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Piliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: Isang 21" color TV set!

I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 10:00pm, on ABC.

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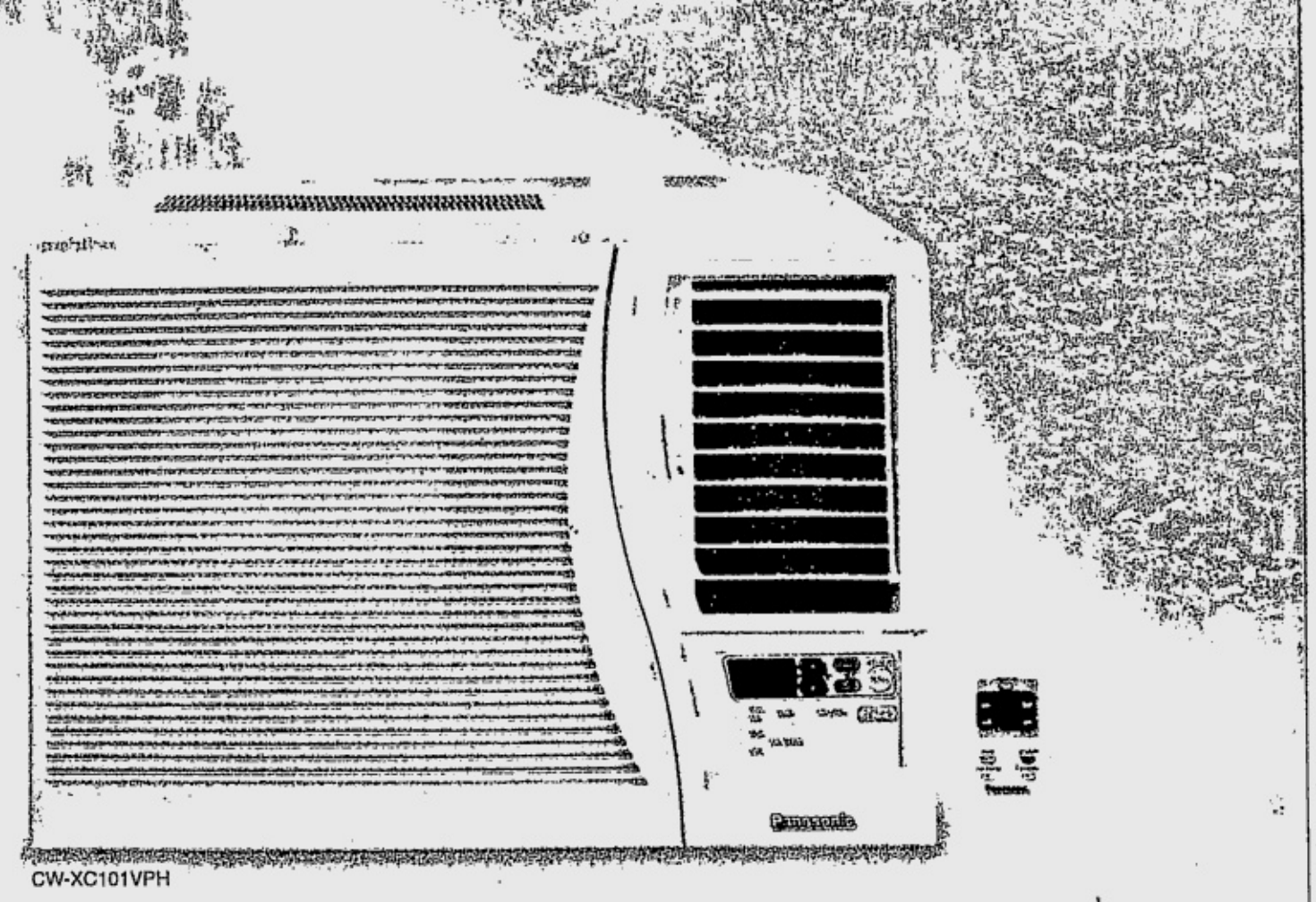


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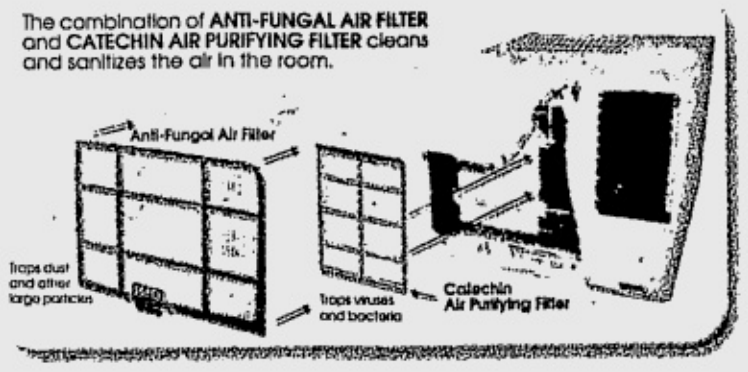


Virus Deactivation Comparison

*Virus activity rate after 8 hours of room temperature

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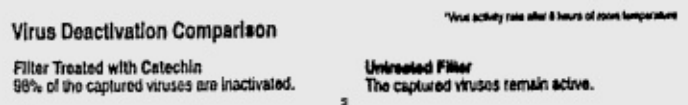


Test conditions / Catechin amount: 2.5 g/m2. Virus studied: Coccackie virus, which is tougher to deactivate than influenza virus.
*This data is for the filter unit only. It does not indicate the effect in actual operation.

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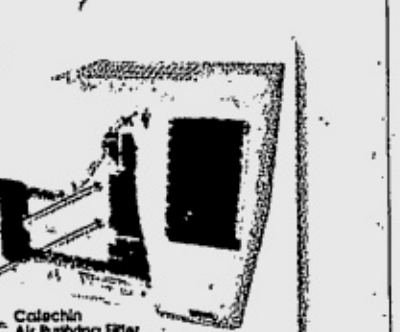


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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

ISLAMIST WEBSITE MESSAGE

# Bin Laden tells fighters to hit oil supplies

**DUBAI—Osama bin Laden called on his fighters Thursday to strike Gulf oil supplies and warned Saudi leaders they risked a popular uprising in an audio message said to be by the Western world's most wanted terror mastermind.**

Washington said intelligence analysts were not immediately able to verify the authenticity of the recording posted on an Islamist website but the White House was quick to voice defiance.

"Take *jihad* (holy war) to stop (the Americans) getting hold of (the oil). Concentrate your operations on the oil, in particular in Iraq and the Gulf," said the voice attributed to the al-Qaida leader.

The lengthy message also warned Riyadh's rulers that "the people have woken" and laid the blame for deadly unrest gripping the country on the kingdom's own regime.

"Muslims are determined to recover their rights whatever the price. Either you give them back what they entrusted you with (power), by allowing them to choose their rulers, or you refuse to give power back to them."

The voice accused the regime in the ultra-conservative kingdom, which is battling a wave of Islamist attacks, of forging an alliance with the "infidel" world led by US President George W. Bush.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said analysts were still checking on the tape's authenticity but vowed that there would be no letup in the administration's fight against Islamic militancy.

"We are a nation at war on terrorism," McClellan told reporters.

"We have made significant progress but the war continues. The terrorists will be defeated, and the civilized world will prevail."

It was the first purported statement from the al-Qaida leader, who has a $25-million US bounty on his head, since a videotape broadcast on Oct. 29 in which he threatened new attacks on the United States.

Since May last year, Saudi Arabia has been battling a wave of deadly attacks in the ultra-conservative kingdom which have been blamed on Bin Laden sympathizers.

BIN LADEN

In the latest attack claimed by al-Qaida, the US consulate in the commercial capital of Jeddah was stormed by gunmen on Dec. 6, killing five non-American staff members and four of the attackers.

The voice on the tape paid tribute to the attackers.

"The responsibility for the current situation in Saudi Arabia rests with the regime," it said in a message which in particular took to task the kingdom's de facto leader Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz.

"In Saudi Arabia, it is the king and not Allah who commands sovereignty and complete obedience," the voice said. "I advised the government two decades ago to remedy the situation... but it has not changed at all."

The tape emerged as Saudi security services were deployed in force to block protests called for by a dissident Islamist group seeking regime change in the oil-rich kingdom. *AFP*

# UN says bugging device found at its Geneva HQ

GENEVA—The United Nations said on Thursday a secret listening device had been found in a posh meeting room of its European headquarters in Geneva.

The room was used by ministers from major powers last year during private talks on Iraq following the US invasion and occupation.

Marie Heuze, chief UN spokesperson in Geneva, confirmed the report by French-language Swiss Television which said the sophisticated bugging device had been uncovered in recent months in the Salon Francais of the Palais des Nations, formerly the League of Nations.

"I confirm that UN workmen found a listening device. An inquiry was unable to determine when the device was planted or by whom," she said.

Swiss Television said the device was found in wooden panels in the room, but Heuze declined to give any details.

The foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France met at the United Nations in Geneva in September 2003 for talks on Iraq.

One delegation, probably France's, is believed to have used the Salon Francais—also used last January during talks on global hunger organized by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and French President Jacques Chirac.

"It is not a negotiating room but a prestigious room of historical interest which is put at the disposal of heads of delegations," Heuze said.

The elegant Salon Francais, which has art deco furniture from the 1930s, is adjacent the room where the UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament holds weekly negotiations.

A Geneva-based security expert who saw photos of the device told the television the system appeared to be of Russian or Eastern European origin. Its size indicated it was three or four years old, before such circuits were miniaturized, he said. *Reuters*

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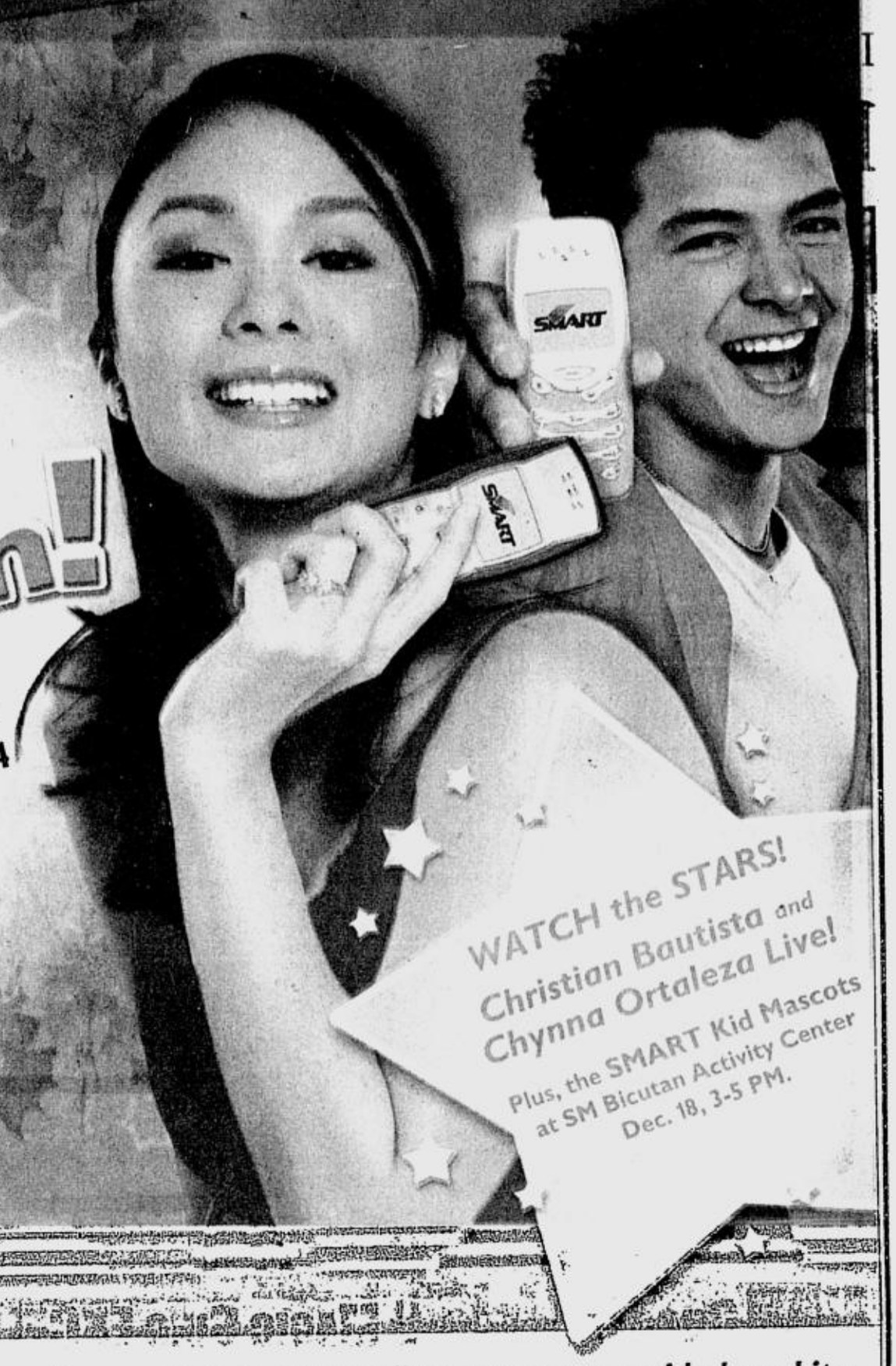


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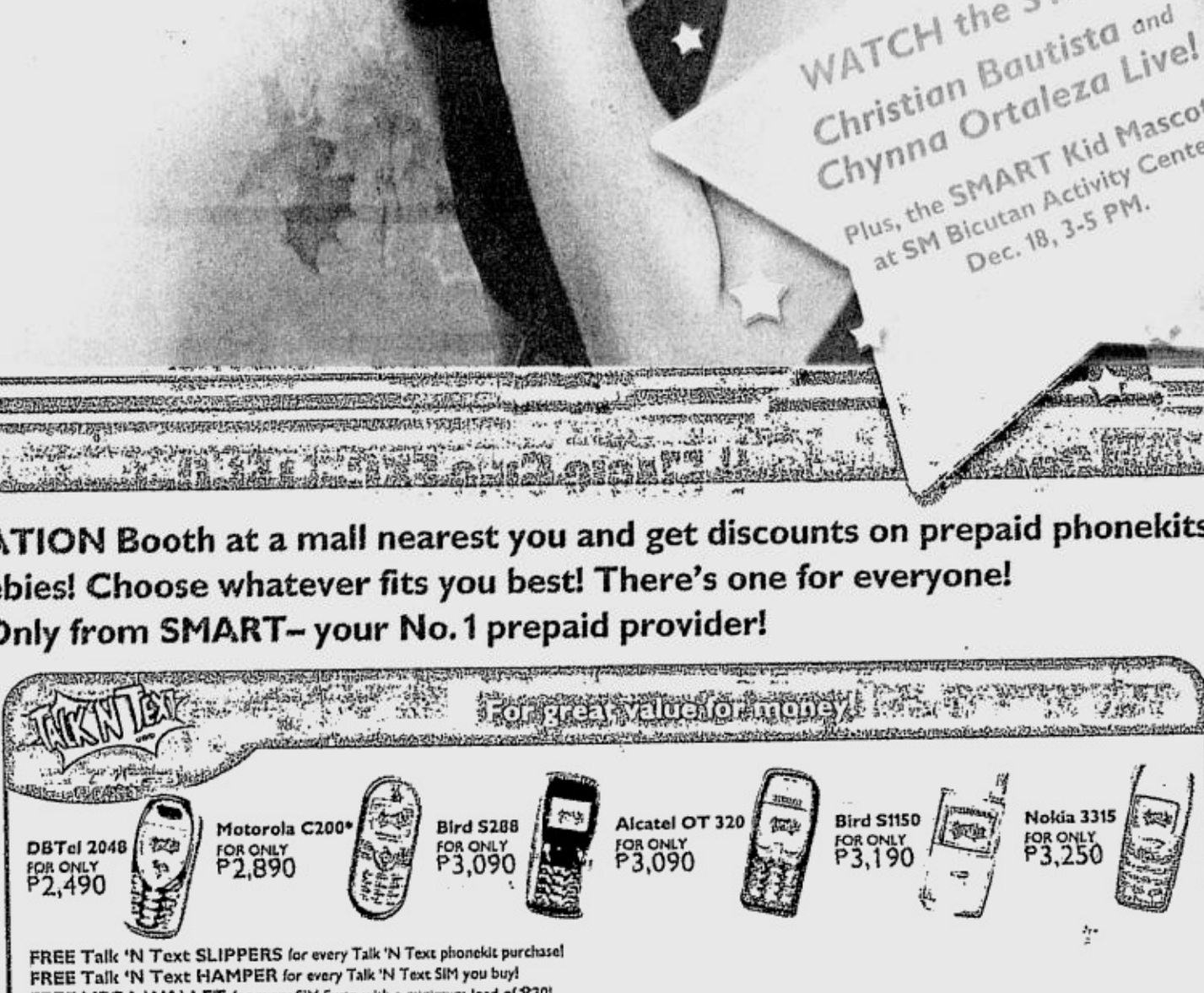

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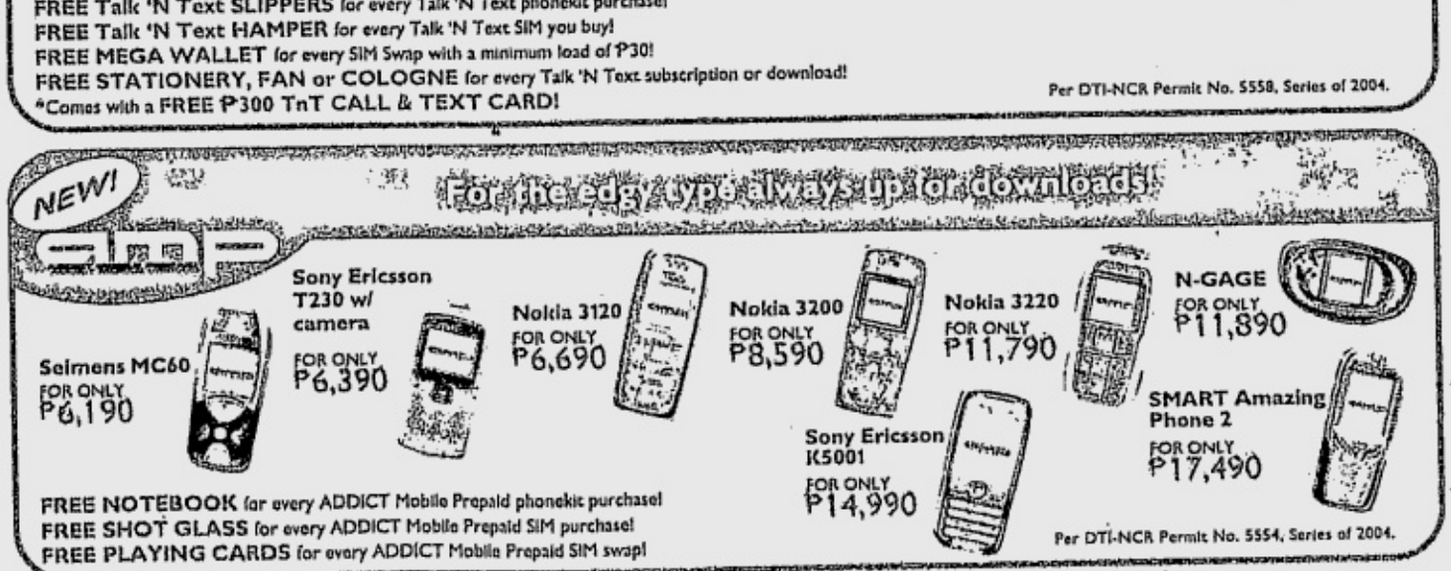

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# Ukrainian leader poisoned by TCDD dioxin, scientist says

LONDON—The scientist analyzing the blood of Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko said Friday that tests confirm he was poisoned by TCDD, the most harmful known dioxin.

Abraham Brouwer, professor of environmental toxicology at the Free University in Amsterdam, told The Associated Press that the dioxin was TCDD, chemically known as tetrachlorodibenzoparadioxin.

TCDD was a key ingredient of Agent Orange, an herbicide blamed for myriad health problems in US veterans of the Vietnam War and local villagers. It is produced inadvertently during manufacturing processes that use chlorine, such as paper and pulp bleaching. It is also given off by incinerator fumes. There is no commercial production of TCDD.

The tests, conducted by Brouwer at BioDetection Systems in Amsterdam, also confirmed that Yushchenko's blood contained 100,000 units of dioxin, the second highest concentration ever recorded.

"It is a single chemical, not a mix," Brouwer said. "This tells us... there is no way it occurred naturally, because it is so pure."

"There were some small signals in the test that may tell us something about where it was... made," he added.

Yushchenko, who faces Kremlin-backed Viktor Yanukovych in a repeat presidential election on Dec. 26, fell ill after having dinner with Ukrainian Security Service chief Ihor Smeshko and his deputy Volodymyr Satsyuk on Sept. 5.

Yushchenko reported having a headache about three hours after the dinner, and by the next day had developed an acute stomach ache. He later developed pancreatitis and gastrointestinal pain, as well as a severe backache.

About three weeks after his first symptoms, Yushchenko developed severe facial disfiguring which is the hallmark of dioxin poisoning.

Yushchenko told the AP on Thursday that he is convinced he was poisoned at the Sept. 5 dinner.

"It was a project of political murder, prepared by the authorities," Yushchenko said.

The dinner "was the only place where no one from my team was present and no precautions were taken concerning the food," he said.

Physicians in Vienna, where the opposition candidate has been treated for the illness, confirmed last weekend that he was poisoned. *AP*

# EU invites Turkey to join bloc

BRUSSELS—EU leaders reached a historic agreement on Thursday to offer Turkey negotiations starting on Oct. 3, 2005 to join the bloc but insisted Ankara must act towards recognizing Cyprus by then.

The 25 leaders agreed the talks would be open-ended with no guaranteed outcome. If they failed, another way would be sought to anchor the mostly Muslim Nato ally, viewed by Washington and others as a key Western ally, to Europe.

"Tonight the European Union has opened its door to Turkey," European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso told an EU summit news conference. "I genuinely believe that this is an offer that Turkey should be glad to accept."

Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said he would put the offer to Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan at a midnight meeting before the EU leaders finalize the terms on Friday.

Erdogan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul gave conflicting signals on Cyprus, with the prime minister saying he was ready to take new steps while his top diplomat said Turkey would not recognize Nicosia directly or indirectly.

"We are going to negotiate to see whether membership is possible. There is no guarantee however," Balkenende said. "If the negotiations fail, we want to make sure the candidate country is anchored in European Union structures." *Reuters*


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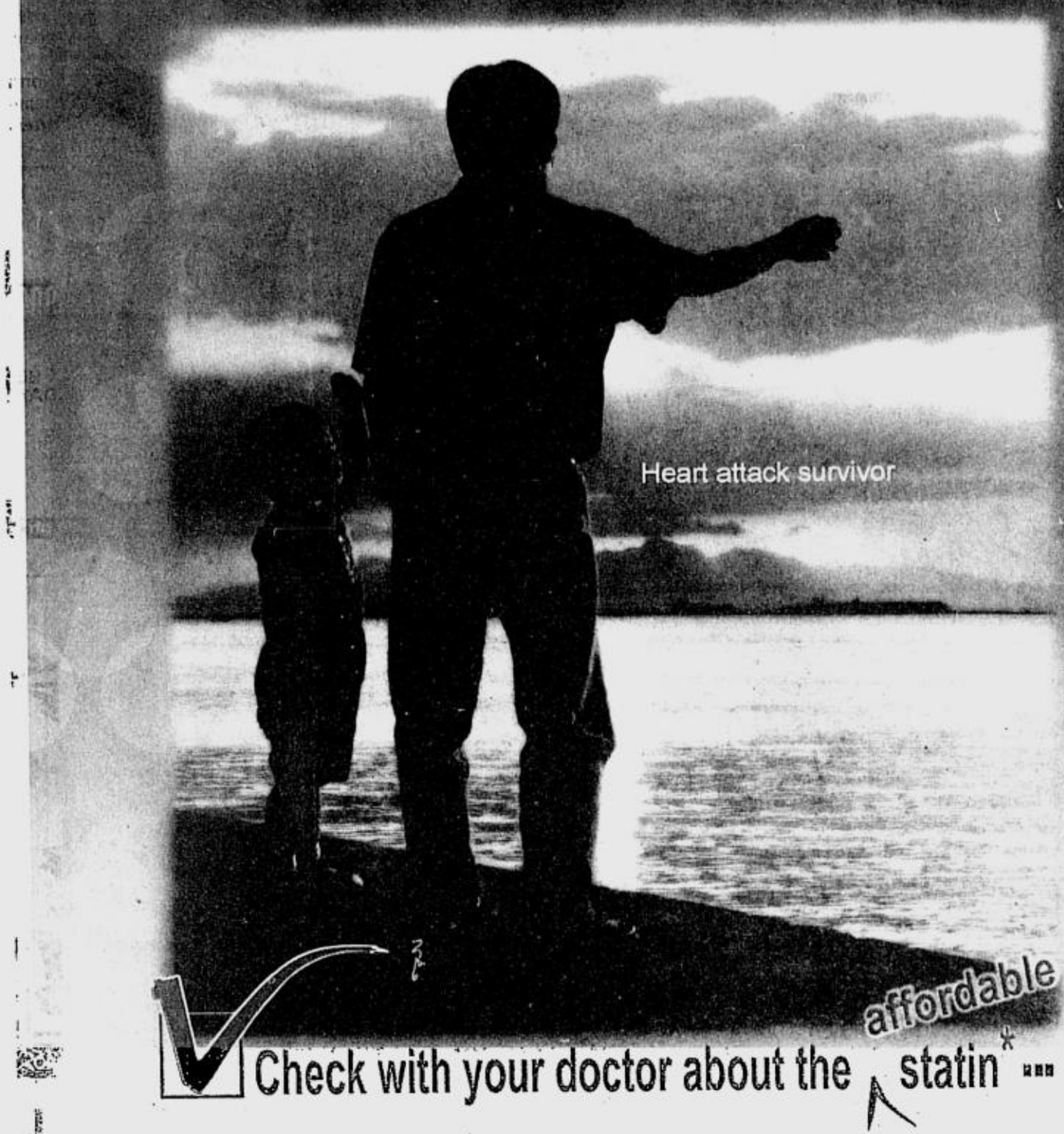


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# Bush keeps missile shield plans despite failures

**MRS. INDIA**
Indian mother of two Jeevika Shah smiles after winning the crown of Mrs. India-World Pageant 2004 in Bombay late, Dec. 16. Shah will compete in the global Mrs. World Pageant, a contest open to married women, which will be held at the Sahara Lake City in India from Feb. 12-26, 2005. AFP

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush remains intent on deploying a multibillion-dollar shield as an "important deterrent" against ballistic missile attack, the White House said on Thursday, a day after the system's first flight test in two years ended in failure.

Scott McClellan, Bush's spokesperson, did not address a delay in activating the first parts of the planned shield. It appeared to have slipped into next year, partly because of technical difficulties.

"The president remains firmly committed to moving forward on a missile defense system," he told reporters. "Given the threats that we face in this day and age, missile defense is an important deterrent."

In December 2002, Bush ordered the Pentagon to have the ground-based component up and running no later than this year.

Boeing Co. is the Pentagon's prime contractor on the project, which would be stitched into a multilayered defense.

The latest test went wrong when an interceptor rocket shut down in its silo on Wednesday in the Marshall Islands in the central Pacific because of "an unknown anomaly," the Defense Department's Missile Defense Agency said. A target missile carrying a dummy warhead had been fired 16 minutes earlier from Kodiak, Alaska.

The Missile Defense Agency had no comment on future test plans or any new target for declaring the system operational "since we don't know the cause of the anomaly we experienced," spokesman Richard Lehner said late on Wednesday.

The Pentagon has already suggested its schedule is slipping.

"I'm not constrained by timing, exactly," Michael Wynne, the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer, said last week in reply to a question about switching the system on. "But we'll see how (Wednesday's test) goes and then we'll see from there."

In eight attempted intercept tests, five have succeeded in highly controlled conditions that critics say bear no resemblance to any real-world situations.

Initially, the system is designed to defend against North Korean missiles that could be tipped with nuclear, chemical or germ warheads and fired at US soil. *Reuters*


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# OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

•100% soy ink•

*Publisher* ISAGANI YAMBOT
*Editor in Chief* LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
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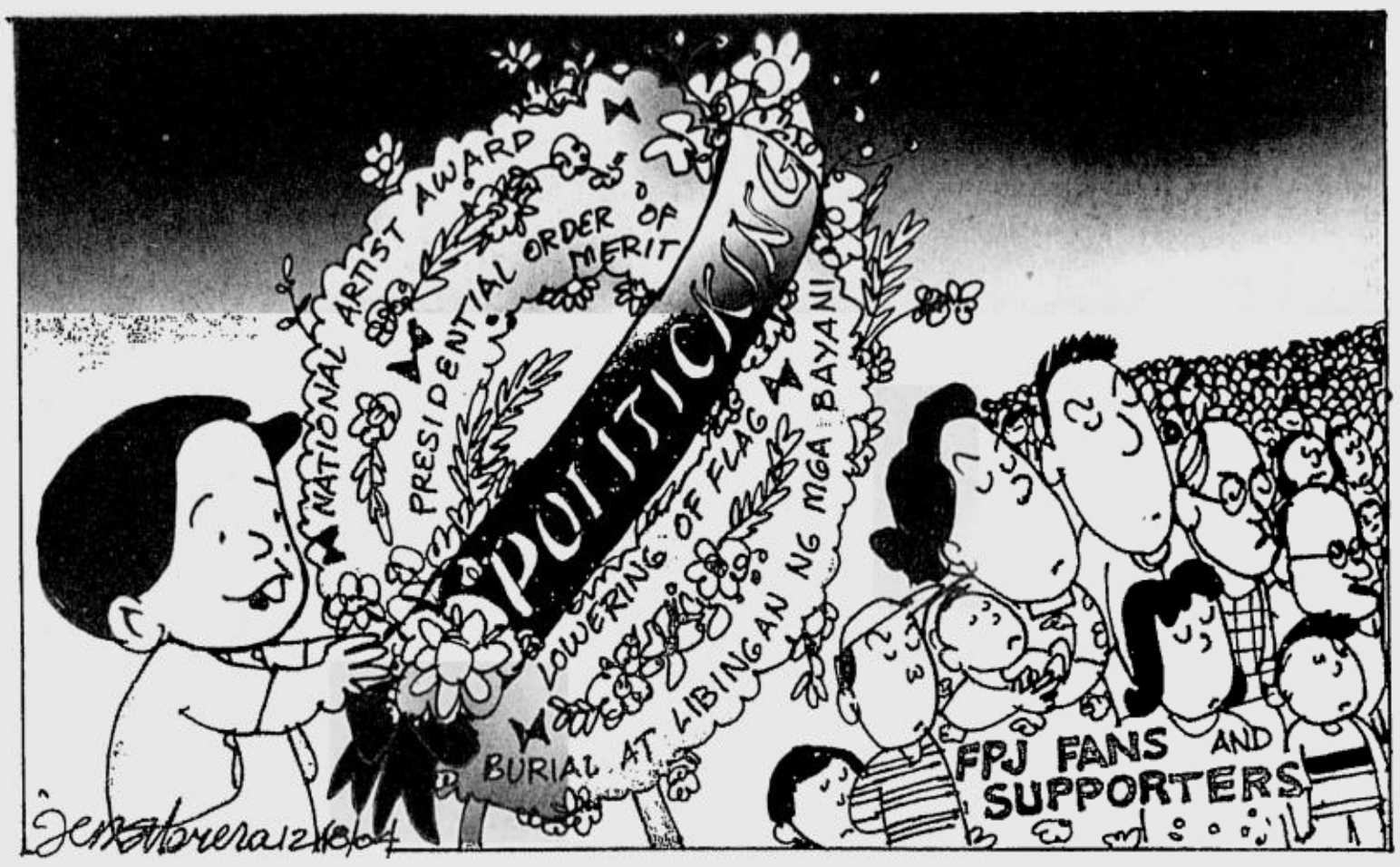


## Everyone's battle

**EDITORIAL**

TONY Man-wal Kwok, former deputy commissioner and head of operations of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), is trying to give Filipinos the benefit of his experience. He served for 35 years in customs control, drug enforcement, finance investigation, intelligence and prosecution for the Hong Kong government, and joined ICAC as an investigator when it was established in 1975. He rose to the post of deputy commissioner and head of operations in 1996 and led the agency through Hong Kong's reunification with China in 1997. His message to Filipinos attending a three-day seminar on fighting corruption was simple and direct: "We need tough political will in order to battle corruption. We cannot rely on a single agency, everybody needs to respond in fighting corruption."

Kwok said fighting corruption requires three things. First, political will from the top, not just from the executive but also the legislative and judicial branches of government. Second, the active participation and support of the private sector. Third, follow-through on everyone's part if momentum is to be created and maintained.

Another international anti-corruption expert, Fredrik Galtung of Transparency International, said in the same seminar that the Philippines should play a "catalytic role" in the international campaign against corruption because of the Edsa people power revolution that overthrew the dictatorship and restored democracy. People power, and its motivating desire for public accountability and transparency, should therefore be both the motivation and the means for fighting corruption.

These statements should remind our officials and the public that fighting corruption can be done, but it won't be accomplished by paying lip service to anti-corruption drives. Corruption is a shortcut that enables people to avoid observing the law. Making the shortcut an unattractive path requires that the law is logical and easy to obey, with people finding it easier to follow the law than to violate it.

In turn, this requires that people both in and out of government be motivated to want to obey the law in the first place. There are many ways to motivate people, and they include fear of punishment and a basic desire to be good. As we pointed out in the case of Singapore's experience with keeping government salaries competitive, enabling government workers to enjoy competitive incomes reduces the temptation to do wrong, and the ability of the public to try to bribe officials.

This doesn't mean, though, that raising salaries is enough. There will always be greedy officials, but greed must be proven to carry a high price, legally and socially. The legal price must be an inflexible and harsh prosecution and conviction by the government. The social price must be to prove, in so doing, that corruption carries with it dishonor and social death.

In the case of the Marcoses and their cronies, their breaking the law hasn't resulted in any of these things. Convictions have been few and far between, due to a combination of unmotivated and at times incompetent prosecution, a lack of political will in prodding the prosecutors, and the refusal of many to punish the Marcoses by shunning them socially or politically.

The same can be seen in the case of former President Joseph Estrada. The dedication of some prosecutors may be unquestionable, but in general the prosecution is losing steam. The wheels of justice are seen to be grinding extremely slowly, if at all. The prosecutorial process remains susceptible to purely political considerations. And the public has not followed through by demanding justice and a swift determination of his plunder cases.

Lifestyle checks, about which President Macapagal-Arroyo brags, have actually made conspicuous consumption by officials a dangerous thing. But if it only convinces crooked officials to be more discreet in their thievery, instead of teaching them they shouldn't steal at all, it only makes the job of investigation and punishment harder. Political will means not only shaming, but jailing, wrongdoers.

Kwok's statements are really a challenge to the Filipino people. He basically dares every Filipino to do his part by not paying bribes or turning a blind eye to wrongdoing. This is the hardest part of all. Just as congressmen can say they need the pork barrel because the public wants it, and just as the public proves this by electing and reelecting congressmen who rely on pork, so will corruption continue as long as Filipinos play an active role in corrupting public servants.

## Exceptions to the Rules

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

LAWYER Eliseo B. Alampay, whom I have not yet met, is seeking my advice and assistance in a case handled by his firm entitled Manila Electric Company v. Nelia A. Barles, GR No. 114231, decided by the Supreme Court on June 29, 2004. He briefly summarizes the salient facts as follows:

On Oct. 4, 1990, Muntinlupa City garnished Meralco's bank deposits in several banks for claimed unpaid real property taxes. Meralco filed a petition with the Regional Trial Court of Makati City for the invalidation of the garnishment. The City moved to dismiss on the ground that the movant should have first paid under protest, which it had not done. The motion was denied.

The denial was appealed to the Court of Appeals which, on Aug. 11, 1993, sustained the City, holding that the denial was "void and without life in law." Meralco appealed to the Supreme Court which, on May 18, 2001, affirmed the CA decision through its Second Division. Meralco moved for reconsideration that was denied "with finality" on Feb. 1, 2002. A second motion for reconsideration was also denied on April 15, 2002, as a prohibited pleading under the Rules of Court. The resolution warned that no further pleading would be entertained in the case.

Accordingly, the Second Division ordered the "entry of final judgment" of the decision of May 18. 2001. This was done on May 27, 2002, with its registration as "final and executory as of 06 March 2002."

Despite such entry, Meralco filed a third motion for reconsideration on June 5, 2002. On June 27, 2002, the City executed the said decision against the Bank of the Philippine Islands, which delivered Meralco's deposit with it amounting to some P800,000. On June 28, 2002, Meralco moved for the recall of the entry of judgment.

In letters addressed to the Chief Justice, copy furnished the chairman of the Second Division, the City protested the said motion, arguing that the resolution of April 15, 2002, had warned that no further pleadings in the case would be entertained. The letters were merely noted and not answered.

On Oct. 21, 2003, the City received copy of a resolution of the Supreme Court *en banc* accepting the referral to it by the Second Division of Meralco's third motion for reconsideration. Without giving the City the opportunity to file a Comment, the *banc* resolved on June 29, 2004 to grant the said motion. The decision of the Court of Appeals was reversed and the case was remanded to the trial court for further proceedings.

The only member of the Second Division who concurred with the resolution was Justice Quisumbing, his colleagues who had also voted to deny Meralco's first and second motions for reconsideration having already retired.

Alampay questions the grant by the *banc* of the third motion for reconsideration, considering that even second motions for reconsideration are not allowed. He cites its own doctrinal rulings that all courts, including the Supreme Court itself, lose jurisdiction over cases the decisions in which have already been entered in the Book of Entry of Judgment. No word was said of the fact that the challenged decision had already been partly executed on the BPI deposit. Such partial execution had practically made the decision a "done deal."

This case reminds me of the criminal conviction of Imelda Marcos by the Sandiganbayan that was affirmed on appeal by the Third Division of the Supreme Court chaired by Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa himself. The decision was appealed to the *banc* which reversed the two previous convictions and acquitted the appellant. The *ponente* was Justice Fidel Purisima, with the Chief Justice and Justices Romero, Regalado, Davide and Panganiban dissenting..

The strict rule announced in SC Circular No. 2-89 that "the Court *en banc* is not an Appellate Court to which decisions or resolutions of a Division may be appealed" was not applied in Imelda's case. Her appeal to the Court *en banc* as a dubious exception to this rule, and her subsequent exoneration, were received with much public disfavor and suspicion.

I can understand Alampay's confusion over the decision of the Supreme Court in this case which seems to conflict with its own established rules respecting the decisions and resolutions of the Divisions as the mandate of the entire Court itself, the finality of decisions entered in the Book of Entry of Judgment, the prohibition against second and more so, third motions for reconsideration, and other requirements and strictures that may or may not be strictly enforced, depending on the mood of the justices.

Many lawyers may not know whether to observe the rules or the exceptions because of the unpredictable impulses of the High Tribunal. Perhaps there should be an Addendum to our procedural laws to be called Exceptions to the Rules of Court.

## Selling the Brooklyn Bridge

**GET REAL**

*Solita Collas-Monsod*

I REALLY thought there was hope. I thought that the Senate was made of sterner stuff than the House, and that reason and fairness would triumph. After all, Joker Arroyo was there. And Jun Magsaysay. And Pia Cayetano. And Dick Gordon. Not to mention Mar Roxas. And that's just for starters. They surely wouldn't allow the interests of the Filipino people to be subordinated to the interests of cigarette manufacturers. They surely would see that between raising something close to P8 billion and something close to P22 billion—from cigarettes alone—there would be no contest, and they would choose P22 billion without batting an eyelash. They surely would correct a situation where one group was given an unfair competitive advantage over others. Or so I thought.

That's why I went to the Senate last Tuesday, when amendments to the Recto-cum-administration-cum-Tan (hereafter to be called RAT) version of the sin tax bill were being discussed. I wanted to witness the proceedings, witness the Senate in action.

What a disappointment.

I will not mention names, but one senator, whom I approached to ask what he thought of what I call the "poison pill" provision in the 1997 sin tax bill (i.e., the one that creates an uneven playing field), asked me to provide him the details, the specific section of the law.

He was not the only one who hid behind the "ignorance" excuse, alas. And it had to be an excuse, because there must have been at least a month's worth of deliberations behind this bill. Moreover, the pertinent provisions on cigars and cigarettes in RA 8424 or the Tax Reform Act of 1997, contained in Title VI, Chapter 4, is exactly one section (Sec. 145) long. Chapter 4 itself, entitled "Excise Taxes on Tobacco Products," has only four sections. And to top it all, one of those pleading ignorance was someone I considered among the most intelligent of the lot.

Then there was the senator who told me that, of course, he was in favor of removing that "poison pill" provision, but it was a useless exercise. Why, he did not elaborate. (It was later explained that what he must have meant was that a caucus had been held among the leadership of both the legislative and executive branches, and the agreement reached was that the RAT version would be passed in exchange for full release of all pork barrel funds.)

Another senator, considered to be very knowledgeable about the business sector, admitted—without any prodding on my part, mind you—that the "LT" factor was at work. His hands were tied; he was only following orders. Whose orders? The "SP's," he replied (he is fond of using initials), and he kindly explained to ignorant me that meant the Senate President.

Still another senator said that it was too late to make any substantive changes to the RAT bill. Removing the "poison pill" provision, he said, would drastically change the "structure" which had taken so long to hammer out. He also explained, in an attempt to either rationalize or console, that anyway the RAT would result in additional revenues of P18 billion, which was pretty close to the P22 billion additional revenue estimate that could be collected if current rather than 1996 prices were used as base.

How was that possible, since the Enrile bill would only result in P11 billion, and the RAT had incorporated a watered-down version of the Enrile bill? A closer examination would show that only P8 billion of the P18 billion would come from cigarette taxes: P5 billion would come from alcohol and liquor taxes, and the other P5 billion from a new source, which is removing the tax-free status of duty-free cigarette imports.

In effect, comparing P18 billion to P22 billion was like comparing apples to oranges. Some intellectual dishonesty there. The proper comparison would be between P18 billion and P32 billion, or between P8 billion and P22 billion. In either case, there is still a P14-billion difference arising from ignoring the poison-pill provision.

But ignore it, the Senate did anyway. In re Fortune vs. the Filipino people, the Senate chose Fortune. That's the bottom line.

But there were some senators who were fighting for the Filipino, and their names I will not hesitate to mention: Ping Lacson, Fred Lim, Jamby Madrigal. There were others who voted with them, but one is not sure whether the vote was for the principle or for the sake of opposition, so one withholds judgment. I assure the readers that it is as strange for me, as it must seem strange to you, that I find myself in a position where I am on Lacson's side. And I must say that on this issue, I am proud to be associated with him. He tells me he will continue the fight, and I will support him.

But the story doesn't end there. Came the bicameral conference committee, and the RAT, or more accurately the Enrile compromise tax portion of it, was further watered down. The tax on the lowest-priced cigarettes was brought down from P3 to P2. And since these comprise at least half of all cigarette sales, one would have expected the estimated additional revenue to be reduced largely.

One would be wrong. Most newspaper reports said that the estimated additional revenue was P17.5 billion. How did that come about? By increasing further the expected tax take from duty-free cigarettes. The advocates of this bill have not only sold the Filipino people down the river, they are also selling us what amounts to the Brooklyn Bridge.

# God's unfathomable will

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THE TRAGEDY that struck the family of Speaker and Mrs. Jose de Venecia hits their friends and associates, too, for the couple is well-loved and known for their kindness and humanitarian endeavors. The De Venecias, who both have children from previous marriages, lost their second child, 16-year-old daughter KC, when a fire that struck their Dasmariñas Village residence at around 11 p.m. Thursday, trapped the young girl inside. Reports said KC had informed people in the house that she was joining her older brother Chris at a nearby café, but apparently she changed her mind and stayed at home. It seemed no one knew she was home. The young girl had the presence of mind to wrap herself in a wet towel in her brother's bathroom, but the fire still got her. Her parents were out at the time, with the Speaker presiding over the adjournment of the House, which will resume session on Jan. 10.

* * *

The death of KC, a gentle girl who had remained unaffected by her mother's wealth and her father's high position, has left the family's relatives and friends dazed as only tragedy can. Especially as it came only two weeks after the tragedies in Aurora and Quezon and a few days after the death of Fernando Poe Jr. For the De Venecias it sadly comes just before Christmas, a time especially for the young, and JDV's 67th birthday on Dec. 26.

Only two days earlier, Gina was the recipient of the "Feel Good Award" from the media forum Bulong Pulungan, in acknowledgment of her many philanthropic endeavors. These include the refuge for battered women and street children, called The Haven, set up by the Congressional Spouses in Alabang and other regions, and her project to rescue street children from selling sampaguitas in the streets and elevate the flower craft into a profitable professional work involving these children's parents. The same forum elevated JDV to its Hall of Fame after he was named among the year's top newsmakers for three consecutive years.

The tragedy also came so soon after the successful mission of JDV to Islamabad, where his vision of an Asian Parliament was overwhelmingly approved and given a five-year timetable to work out. Earlier, the United Nations voted to support JDV's idea of setting up an interfaith council to solve the world's conflicts. Also, under JDV's leadership, the House had approved four critical revenue measures as against the Senate's one measure.

* * *

What made it so sad for many of us in the media is that we were at the De Venecia residence that day, until about 3 p.m. for their traditional Christmas fellowship for the media. The luncheon was marked by a lot of contests and games, singing and raffles, and if I remember correctly, it was the most riotous fellowship we've had, presided over by the hostess. Gina managed to still tell me amid all the riotous fun how sad she felt, listening to the stories of the families who lost many loved ones in Quezon and Aurora. JDV later came in and reported on how the two chambers of Congress hammered out the final version of the sin taxes measure and the House approved the budget for 2005 in a marathon session.

Little did we realize that in a few hours tragedy would strike at Magnolia Street. At a time of such tragedy as what hit the Poe and De Venecia families and countless families in Aurora and Quezon, it's difficult to fathom God's holy will or His inscrutable ways. Their relatives and friends can only pray that they be given the strength to bear their loss.

* * *

Two months ago, this columnist was invited to represent the media in the executive committee, chaired by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, that would screen the nominees for the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. Aside from myself, those recruited from outside were Fr. Fabio Baggio, director of the Scalabrini Migration Center, and Ramon Sy, president and CEO of the International Exchange Bank. We worked with Ambassador Linglingay Lacanlale, presidential chief of protocol, and Jose Z. Molano, executive director of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas under the Office of the President. Among those who coordinated the project were lawyer Golda Myra Roma, OIC of the DFA planning, research and policy office, and Pete Chan, executive director of the Office of the DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs.

* * *

Given out every two years, the awards were institutionalized during President Cory Aquino's time through EO 498. Up to 2002, some 156 Filipino individuals and organizations overseas had been honored. This year, 34 individuals and 14 organizations were feted by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang Wednesday evening and recognized for their professional competence and excellence as well as for their adherence to the time-honored Filipino values of *pakikipag-kapwa, pagtutulungan* and *pagkakaisa*.

I must say that the screening work we had to do was most fulfilling. I was quite impressed by the tremendous recognition the awardees won in the course of practicing their professions abroad. But even more impressive was the degree of their involvement with the Filipino overseas communities as well as with their native land, despite their long years of absence. Most of the awardees have helped in specific projects to improve the living conditions in their native country.

* * *

The UP Rural High School celebrates 75 years of excellence with a grand alumni homecoming to be held this morning at the UPHS in Camus and Barangay Ponciano Rizal, Bae, Laguna. The morning will feature a motorcade, parade roll call and the giving of awards to deserving alumni. In the afternoon, there will be a general assembly, class presentations and team games. The evening is reserved for documentary viewing, outstanding alumni awards and dancing. Come one and all.

# Story of grace

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Grace M. Flores*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.*—**Ed.**

FOR 28 years, I have celebrated my birthday on the same special day when we commemorate the birth of the Christ Child. Though it is a thrill to celebrate it on a day when people all over the world are in a joyous mood, I have often wondered what it is like to have it on another day.

As if it were not enough to share this momentous day with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, I have learned that I share my birthday with other notable people. There is Danish supermodel Helen Christensen, whose flawless and slender figure I can only dream of having. There is Humphrey Bogart, the legendary American actor whose acting was marvelous.

Evangeline Cory Booth was born on Christmas Day in 1865. She was the youngest child of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, and she followed her father into the ministry and later became its fourth general and world leader.

On Christmas Day in 1821, Clara Barton was born in Massachusetts, USA. This fearless woman was hailed as the personification of mercy when she courageously served the wounded during the American Civil War. This "Angel of the Battlefield" almost single-handedly established the American Red Cross.

And who doesn't know Sir Isaac Newton? This famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642.

Then there is me. I have not achieved celebrity status. I have not established any worthwhile organization. I cannot claim to have made any great scientific discovery nor am I known for great acts of charity. And most definitely I can lay no claim to washing away the sins of the world. Though God has richly blessed my life with a loving and supportive family and guided me to a profession I love, my life has seen so many ups and downs, with the downs predominating. Whatever I have accomplished thus far are the results of having great parents, lots of of hard work and His help.

People see me as a young, vivacious and articulate person with a ready laugh and seemingly carefree attitude. Some probably assume I have few cares because rarely do I show any worry. But that is what they think. Like so many people, there is only so much that I allow others to see.

If someone were to make a geographical representation of my life, it would reveal the mountains and valleys, meadows and plains I have traveled. There would be narrow paths lightly trodden and wide paths strewn with lessons learned. It would also be replete with rivers and streams, lakes and even oceans of tears.

Though it was an enriching and inimitable adventure, I cannot deny that I have struggled during the post-adolescent chapters of my life. Such struggles persist to this day, and from them I have drawn valuable lessons and incomparable experiences. Some have left me battered, bruised and scarred.

These day-to-day struggles I face bravely, but when I feel all alone, with no one else to see or hear me, I cry to my Abba Father and I ask why life has to be so hard. I ask why I fail repeatedly. I ask why the challenges often seem insurmountable. I ask why my accomplishments never seem to be enough in the eyes of others.

Lest you think I live a depressing life, I don't. Fact is, the smallest things make me happy. My work as a special education teacher pushes me constantly to see the world through the eyes of children and find happiness and contentment in life's simple joys and the smallest successes. Perhaps that is why whenever I experience pain, it leaves a deep impression in my heart. And when I pray, I beseech God to help me make sense of the heartaches and pain He has allowed to visit me.

God has often revealed Himself to me as the Divine Special Education Teacher of my life. He has an IEP for me, but it is no ordinary Individualized Educational Plan. It is the Immanuel's Eternal Plan, broken down into short- and long-term goals with a terminal goal only He can see. Just like in Special Ed, the short-term goals appear too elementary and pointless at times, but God keeps reminding me that everything I am going through leads to a goal I may not see. In His wisdom, He has written this plan and every day He is carrying it out. There is nothing I have to do but trust Him completely and submit to His divine intervention.

And being the special child that I am, I am badly in need of His intervention. Like a disabled child, I struggle to learn my lessons. I am slow in comprehending what God is teaching me. And though I go through the same lessons over and over again, I can't seem to remember what I'm supposed to learn. God has equipped me with skills to use when facing problems, but I often forget how to use them and end up dealing with them in my own inexperienced way.

Spiritually I am afflicted with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. I don't pay attention to what God is saying but instead focus on the trivial and mundane. I live a hyperactive life and use it as a diversion to keep myself from doing things that really matter. I act impulsively without first considering what God wants me to do.

Like a deaf child, I do not hear what God tells me, especially if it is something I do not want to do. Instead I choose to listen to the voices I want to follow.

I am sometimes blind to the helping hand He offers. And I am blind to the people around me who need help, especially the people who need God.

My spiritual life is also much delayed in its progress and development.

And yet despite all these handicaps, my Divine Special Ed Teacher has lovingly and graciously guided me. Countless times, He has picked me up and assured me that there was nothing wrong with falling as long as I got up and moved on. Repeatedly, He has held my hand and walked with me though oftentimes I have stubbornly insisted on acting independently. Like the great Special Ed Teacher that He is, He has allowed me to fail, knowing that I would eventually learn from my mistakes.

My omniscient Teacher has never given up and has never been discouraged by how I am turning out. My dismal performance and slow rate of progress have not driven Him away from me. When everyone else has given up on me, my Divine Sped Teacher has held me in His arms and assured me He has a plan and He would never leave my side until I reach the terminal goal He has set for my life.

I take so much comfort from knowing that even though my IEP might take years to complete, I am blessed a thousandfold to be under the tutelage of such a great Teacher. One who cheers my every little success. One who does not care what other people think about me. One who believes that someday I can and I will reach my maximum potential.

Although I have not achieved the same prominence as others with whom I share my birthday, I am not the least bit worried. My Divine Special Ed Teacher has given me far more than what I deserve. To live in His grace is far more important than winning an Oscar or a Nobel prize. It is truly wonderful to be His student, His intern and His special child. I ask for nothing more than that His name be glorified in this continuing story of grace.

*Grace M. Flores, 28, works as a special education teacher in three private institutions in Quezon City.*

# The 'new' Susan Roces

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

ONE of the biggest treats during my childhood was to be invited by my parents to watch the "last show" at one of the movie houses in Manila. We lived in Cubao, and at that time there were no cinemas yet in our part of the metropolis. Movie lovers had to travel all the way to downtown Manila, to movie palaces like Odeon, Ideal or, much later, Cinerama, if they wanted to catch a movie.

There were nine of us siblings, but my parents could bring only two or three kids at a time for a movie outing, unless it was for a blockbuster like "Ten Commandments" or "Sound of Music." A special birthday treat, in fact, was to be brought along to watch a movie of your choice with a sibling of your choice. An approaching birthday gave you tremendous power, if only temporarily, though if you were wise, you could extend the perks by stringing along your expectant siblings.

If you were one of the chosen ones, the anticipation would build all through dinner, until, at a signal, you rushed up to your room and grabbed a sweater, necessary because air-conditioning was still a rarity and you could come down with a cold from the chill. Then, with Mama and Papa, you walked out to the street corner to catch a bus to downtown. The bus ride was an integral part of the experience, for looking out of the high window at the darkened streets made you feel all daring and grown-up.

Being movie buffs, my parents went on a movie outing at least three times a week, but only to see Hollywood movies. They never quite developed a taste for Filipino movies, or at least I can't remember a time when they bothered to make the trip to catch a local film.

* * *

THIS presented quite a problem to a homegrown movie fan, like me. Weaned on early-afternoon Filipino movies on TV, mesmerized by those flickering black-and-white images, I became early in life a fan of stars like Nida Blanca, Nestor de Villa, Charito Solis, Rosa Rosal, and later, Nora Aunor, Tirso Cruz III, Vilma Santos, and a young, luminescent Hilda Koronel.

But no one, or no love team, had quite the hold on my heart and imagination as the pair of Susan Roces and Eddie Gutierrez. At the time, the only theater that showed Filipino movies downtown was Life Theater. Beyond the strip of movie houses along Rizal and Recto Avenues, all other cinemas around the country showed local movies. But only Life was deemed "decent" enough for middle-class folks. And so, when a Susan-Eddie flick was showing, I had to cajole movie money from my Mama as well as convince one of our *yayas* to make the trip with me to Life Theater.

The biggest threat to the popularity of the Eddie-Susan pairing was that of Amalia Fuentes and Romeo Vasquez. When Amalia and Romeo ended up a couple in real life, I was driven to hopeful fantasies that Susan and Eddie would fall in love and get married, too. So when the movie press started reporting that Susan ("Swanie" to her friends) was going out with Fernando Poe Jr., already a big star then, but whom I hadn't seen onscreen since I wasn't a fan of action films, I resented this interloper in our idealized vision of life imitating movie art. I'm sure many Eddie-Susan fans' hearts broke like mine did the day it was revealed that our wholesome, sweet and innocent "Swanie" had ended up not with tall, suave, gentle Eddie but with Daniel Barrion.

* * *

WATCHING the blanket TV news coverage of the wake of "Da King," one was brought back to those days of fandom. It was the anniversary of the elopement of Swanie and Ronnie, and the TV screen was filled with images of their younger days, especially of their first movie together, "Perlas ng Silangan." Again, one beheld Susan Roces in her prime, and even just a glimpse of her face, regal and serene, brought one back to the days when she ruled the box-office and reigned as well in her fans' hearts.

But it was a different "Tita Swanie" on TV Thursday evening. Where before, during her husband's campaign and in the first days of the wake, she was all tact and composure, and at times teary and rueful, on the day of her "real" anniversary, she seemed to have broken out of her regal cage. "The Visayan side of me is showing," she warned interviewers. Now that her husband was no longer around to caution her and prevent her from airing her views, she felt free to express her thoughts and feelings, she said.

And boy did she let 'em have it! She let go of a mouthful about how much she resented the way she, but especially her husband, were insulted and vilified in the course of the campaign. She told off Karen Davila of ABS-CBN (who thankfully kept her cool and her professionalism) for their, in her view, "biased" reporting. She chided government officials for belatedly and perhaps hypocritically offering all sorts of honors to her late husband, if only to appease his followers. And then she offered up her views on national problems, from *kotong* cops to the prices of agricultural goods, from the lack of income opportunities for rural folk to lousy weather forecasting.

* * *

I DON'T know if Ms Roces had always been this ballsy. To the movie-going public, her image had always been that of a sweet, put-upon heroine who prevails mainly through goodness. In contrast, Amalia Fuentes was always the harridan, sharp of tongue and blunt-spoken. Where Amalia exuded sensuality, Susan was all sweetness and light.

Maybe it's maturity, or grief, or the harsh exposure of a killing political campaign. My own take on this sudden emergence of a "new" Susan is that she had always been her own woman, though cloaked in an image far more palatable to a conservative public. She had always been a woman who pursued her own dreams and plotted out her own life, even if it meant breaking the hearts of her fans.

# Responses

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

*Bambi L. Harper*

THERE appears to be a large segment of people who aren't too happy with the situation we find ourselves in—the corruption, the humongous debt, the venality of our leaders, the manner in which we have fallen behind all our neighbors and the hypocrisy of our attitudes. The good news is that we seem to have stopped blaming the usual suspects (the Spaniards and the Americans, who else?) for our problems and have begun to see ourselves as culpable.

Bobby Pinpin, who must be very young indeed, "can't wait till we have our own 'Glorious Revolution'," forgetting that revolutions tend to eat their young. He concedes that in a small way he could change his surroundings and motivate his friends to do the same but "our government officials view their positions as more of a privilege ... a divine right than a responsibility to the nation." He feels he's back in a feudal era "where the wealthy are lords, and they keep sucking the peasants of strength, money, and liberty."

Graham Reinders believes "we are the problem" because "each and everyone of us is a co-conspirator every time we sanction or accept unacceptable conduct from our leaders." We only pay "lip service to change" since the educated elite "will fight to the death to protect the system which encloses us, because, the devil we know is far superior to the uncertainty of a system change, where we may no longer have the position (or the power or the money) we have in this one." All of us condemn corruption, of course, but "the reality is that we are all guilty of furthering corruption."

Having lived in the United States for 37 years and observed the behavior of his fellow Filipinos, Cesar Lumba believes that "if you change the culture, you change the people," because the Filipino in America has "a sense ... that we have a duty to serve others, and that is the reason we are well compensated. We don't ever feel that it is every man for himself, which seems to be the culture in the Philippines."

Although he advocates stopping corruption by going "cold turkey," this is surely easier said than done. Pinpin quotes his father as saying, "*Sa simula siguro pipilitin mong 'wag sumama sa agos, kaso sa katagalan kakainin ka na ng sistema.*"

We have also begun to perceive that "we have a genius for corrupting our positive traits," according to Tristan Cupida. Our "*pakikisama* and strong family relations" end up with congressmen hiring their incompetent and inexperienced family members as part of their staff "with generous perks to boot." "*Utang na loob*" becomes the way for a campaign donor to "practically dictate what laws (or what version of the sin tax bill) have to be passed."

And then there's our prayerfulness which, according to Cecil Peralta, deteriorates into the "Cory Syndrome" that translates into going to church "and just pray and pray. Leave the rest to faith and fate. As long as you keep praying and praying everything will be all right even when realities belie the fact ... the reason, I think, why Rizal said that the moth circles the light to die a martyr to its illusion."

Virtues such as "truth, honor, valor are honored in the breach than observance" and Tony U agrees, writing that "very few individuals here actually believe that if he or she lives by these ideals, he or she will get anywhere in life."

A retired professor of Marine Science at UP Diliman, Flor Lacanilao believes that while "science alone cannot save the Philippines, the Philippines without science cannot be saved." In case there are still doubters out there, she says that "we have the highest population density among the 10 Southeast Asian countries, except Singapore" and this will frustrate any development program since "our population growth rate of 1.9 percent for the over four billion people in less developed countries."

India, Singapore and China have all given science top priority, but "our past and present leaders of government" failed to recognize that progress was dependent on controlling population growth and emphasizing science subjects. In the year 2000, indicators showed that our expenditure for science and technology was "one-sixth that of Singapore, one-third that of Thailand, one-half that of Malaysia and below that of Indonesia." Just so you parents will go and demand more from your children's schools, this time according to me, please tell them that "China's S&T capacity is 58 times that of the Philippines."

On the other hand, we have that terrible fatalism that enables us to endure all kinds of injustice as "the will of God" and allows us to shrug it off with "*Bahala na.*" Perhaps it hasn't sunk in that our *martir* complex doesn't relate just to the individual; it's the nation's survival that's in question now.

I found the response rather overwhelming and I only hope that the thoughts of these people will spark a reaction from their elected representatives aside of course from those insipid press releases their PR men keep issuing (which I take it are paid for with taxpayers' money, of course).

* * *

*Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com*

# Indecent exposure on TV

IT is bad enough that preschoolers and young adults now go to Sunday Mass wearing the bare midriff fashion of American pop idol Britney Spears. And now come these three highly successful local celebrities, much older than Britney, in attires baring more skin than necessary.

Regine Velasquez, the undisputed top female vocalist of the country, Zsa Zsa Padilla, one of our best singers, and the multi-talented Kris Aquino worked so hard over the years to get where they are now in show biz. Must they use their bodies to get more public attention?

The fact is, true artists and gifted performers are judged and earn respect by proving their rare talents. Young bold starlets remain in their category despite the gross indecency directors make them display on screen.

What more would Velasquez, Padilla and Aquino want to achieve in life by being indecently exposed? If only for the sake of young children who love to watch their shows on television, is it too much to ask Velasquez, Padilla and Aquino to dress more decently?

Finally, why is the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board so blind to the issue of too much baring of skin even in innocent singing contests on television? The warning "parental guidance" for adult shows is not enough because when parents are away, kids are exposed to adult fare on TV that their *yayas* love to watch.

—MARY JOAN A. ANGELES,
St. Paul of the Cross Parish,
6 Pinto St., Rancho Estate I,
Marikina City

## LETTERS

## PMA character

FOR 50 cents, a Philippine Military Academy topnotcher gambled away our country's honor. (PDI, 12/08/04) Meanwhile, a major general and a colonel are facing charges in various courts for allegedly amassing illegal wealth; and a retired lieutenant general is the subject of a case filed by the Ombudsman before the Sandiganbayan.

All four are graduates of the PMA. If these high-ranking military officers and PMA topnotcher are found guilty they will have ignominiously shaken the foundation of their alma mater.

But it's heartening to hear that "the PMA is finalizing a new program that integrates character development into all aspects of the cadets' four-year stay at the academy." A primary mark of good character is self-respect, which is the best restraint against temptations to commit corruption. Indeed, it is imperative that the military be purged of corruption.

—ENRIQUE R RECEDE,
115-F Doña Nieves St.,
Angono, Rizal 1930

## Pedestrian traps

I AM a student of the UP College of Architecture who is hoping to graduate in April 2005. I am writing this letter because I recently figured in an accident that was largely caused by the negligence of either the Metro Manila Development Authority or the city government of Makati. I wish to call the attention of our concerned public officials to this matter.

On Nov. 26, a batchmate and I went to the office of the MMDA along Edsa to do interviews and archival research for our undergraduate thesis. On our way home, as we were ascending the overpass, a bamboo pole suddenly blocked the passageway, hitting my head. It was thrust there by utility workers who were upstairs, cleaning and painting the overpass, unmindful of pedestrians passing through.

As a result of that accident, I am now suffering from carotid artery dissection. My neck is in deep pain. I am constantly experiencing dizziness and headache. Should I not seek further medical attention, I could suffer a stroke.

I am a self-supporting student taking odd jobs (mostly in fast-food establishments and short-term student assistantships) outside of my academic classes at UP Diliman. This is how I, together with a sister, try to make both ends meet and raise money for my (and my two other younger siblings') daily expenses. In fact, I dropped out of school for a year to work and save money for our schooling. Abandoned by our parents since childhood, we could no longer live on doles from our relatives.

After the accident, I am now forced to spend a huge amount of money for my medical bills on top of our daily expenses.

What bothers me more is the negligence of the workers and their superiors. The accident could have been prevented had the workers and their superiors been more conscious of and sensitive to the safety of pedestrians. They could have closed the overpass to pedestrians while work was in progress. They could have put up a sign calling the attention of the public to the ongoing work at the overpass. Who knows how many other passers-by fell victims to their negligence?

I fervently hope that all government officials be more responsible in educating and supervising their subordinates, especially when undertaking projects that could pose danger to public health and safety. After all, the money they are spending for the projects comes from the sweat and blood of taxpayers.

—RONDELL C. GASCON,
Student No. 1998-12779,
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture,
College of Architecture,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101

## Lights still off in Balonbato, QC

THIS is about the street lights of Teachers' Bliss at Balonbato, which were disconnected from the Meralco grid a few days after the elections last May. Without electricity, our place is now becoming a breeding place of illegal drug users, holdupmen, snatchers, petty thieves and sexual molesters victimizing those coming home late at night or the early risers going to office or market at dawn.

On several occasions I have asked officers of the three homeowners associations of Teachers' Bliss about the matter, but all they would say is, "it had a problem with Meralco regarding unpaid electric bills." If this is the reason, then the present administration of Mayor Feliciano Belmonte is duty-bound to pay the electric bills (unless there's a serious legal problem that needs judicial intervention). The unpaid bills, after all, are for electricity consumed for the benefit of the residents of Teachers' Bliss. It is immaterial that it was a previous elected official who assumed responsibility for paying the bills.

Moreover, our place delivered a big margin of votes for the reelection of Mayor Belmonte and Rep. Annie Susano. I hope our beloved mayor and representative will join hands to resolve the issue once and for all and light our streets before the Christmas Midnight Mass begins.

—ERNESTO F. SARMIENTO,
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Teachers' Bliss,
Balonbato, Quezon City

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

# Fashion accessories straight out of prison

By Jolene R. Bulambot
*Cebu City*

FOR SEVERAL years now, inmates at the Mandaue City Jail have proven to themselves that life does not end with detention.

Instead, many of the prisoners realized that there is still hope for change. Opportunities still blossom despite restrictions in their freedom and isolation from their loved ones.

As the country celebrates the season of giving, the inmates here are also occupied with their lucrative livelihood project.

Many of the jail's 490 inmates, including some females and minors, are engaged in making fashion accessories that have been exported to Western countries for the past three years.

The products they labor on include creative and colorful necklaces, bracelets, pendants, key chains, belts and dream catchers.

Chief Insp. Jose Moring, the jail warden, told the INQUIRER that the skilled inmates involved in the project have already earned at least P250,000 in the past 10 months, or about P50,000 more than their total earnings last year.

Moring said 10 percent of the income is kept by the jail administration for jail operations, while the remaining 90 percent is divided among those involved in the project.

Moring said three export companies, all based in Mandaue City, had tapped the prisoners' skills and labor in exchange for reasonable pay.

These companies regularly supply the prisoners the materials needed to produce the adornments. Such materials include nylon thread, glass beads, wooden accessories, shells, scales, laminated glass, leather and coconut products.

When the jail administration started the fashion accessories project four years ago, they only started with 20 skilled workers. Today, almost half of the number of inmates are engaged in the project.

Moring said there had been several livelihood projects initiated by his predecessors, but nothing succeeded until they engaged in fashion accessory making.

The project, he said, is in line with the mission of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to promote rehabilitation programs for the inmates to make them productive and useful.

## Dignity of labor

Jose Biran, 36, and detained for homicide, said they have to double their efforts now to cope with the number of orders.

Biran, a skilled fashion accessory maker before he was imprisoned, trained most of his fellow inmates.

He said their contracting companies supplied them with samples that served as model products.

Since December is a peak season, Biran said they work day and night to meet their delivery deadlines.

"We have so many orders now. In a day, we even get five sacks of the supplies instead of the usual two sacks a day. Our work keeps us occupied and gives us a sense of worth. We are very grateful to the project because we are learning and earning at the same time," he said.

Biran said the cost of labor depends on the products they are working on.

The more elaborate the product, the higher the labor cost, he said.

On the average, he said, each of the inmate-workers gets paid at least P300 a week.

Biran also said that the inmates have been trained to ensure quality in their work. "If things were not done efficiently, the products would be returned for them to be redone," he said.

Geoffrey Dueñas, 37 and detained for drug charges, serves as the coordinator of the livelihood project among the adult male prisoners.

Dueñas said the skilled workers could accomplish an average of 120 pieces a day.

"Most of those who joined us were those who rarely get visitors. To ease the pain, they wanted to be occupied. Our work keeps us going. It trained us to become very productive, too," he said.

He said the inmates are organizing a big Christmas party for everyone in the jail because of the blessings they got this year. The inmates have already ordered 100 kilos of pork, using their earnings from the project.

Marites Sungahid, a 32-year-old mother of six, said she was grateful for the project because it helps her finance her children's needs.

Sungahid has been detained for 10 months for illegal possession of dangerous drugs.

She said she could string together about 100 pieces of jewelry a day and get paid P2 for each string.

"I need to work while I am here because my family needs me. I have six children at home and I have to help the family. I miss my children very much. When they come to visit me, I feel proud that I can give them money," she said.

Moring said the discipline and productivity shown by the inmates could serve as an inspiration to everyone.

He said that in Metro Cebu, it is only at the Mandaue City Jail that the livelihood project succeeded because of the enthusiasm and dedication of the prisoners to earn.

Aside from fashion accessories, the inmates occasionally receive orders for basket weaving and candle making.

A rattan export company in Mandaue City pays at least P200 for every bar stool, sofa or armchair and P40 for every basket made.

Last month, a Catholic lay group in Cebu, the Our Lady of Manaoag-Cebu chapter, ordered 50,000 candles. Each candle cost P2.50.

"We are very happy with the outcome of this livelihood project. When the [inmates are released], they are already rehabilitated and they will always have a fallback," Moring said.

MANDAUE City jail warden Jose Moring (second from right), together with some prisoners, show the products the inmates have been producing, among them, fashion accessories as part of their livelihood project at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. JOLENE BULAMBOT

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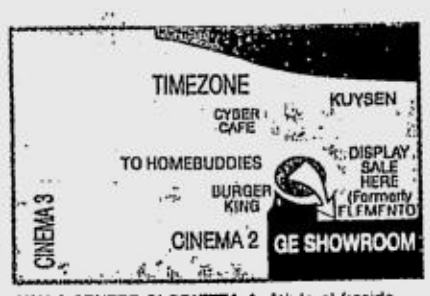


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## Soldiers face raps for shabu

KALIBO, Aklan—Two Army soldiers are facing criminal charges after they were allegedly caught sniffing shabu in last week's raid conducted by the police on the famous island-resort of Boracay.

Private First Class Venancio Gandulfo and Private Glenn Suerte were charged with violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 at the Aklan provincial prosecutor's office.

Gandulfo and Suerte were members of the Special Platoon of the Army's 47th Infantry Battalion detailed in Boracay.

The two were arrested on Dec. 10 during a raid in Sitio Bulabog in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island, said Insp. Jack Wanky, chief of the Boracay Special Protection Unit (BSPU).

He said the target of the raid was one Juvy Asuncion but when the raiding team searched the house, they saw two soldiers allegedly conducting a pot session. Arrested with the soldiers was one Enrique Milo. *Recto Vidal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# 3 GenSan blast suspects found Sayyaf members

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Three of the five arrested suspects in the Dec. 12 bombing of a public market here belong to the Abu Sayyaf group and two of them matched the description of the bombers provided by witnesses, the military said.**

The revelation appear to give credence to theories that the explosion, which killed at least 15 people and wounded scores of others, was the work of terrorists.

The Abu Sayyaf was being linked to the Jemaah Islamiya, the group that claimed responsibility for the Bali bombings of 2000, where more than 200 people were killed.

As this developed, the local police crime laboratory reported that the explosive used in the bomb attack was a combination of TNT, nitrate and carbon.

Late Wednesday afternoon, the police and the military conducted a joint operation in Barangay Labangal here and arrested Norma Factora, Connie Formentira, Salih Tasil, Karias Kamad and Roland Samuel.

During the raid, authorities recovered a 60mm mortar shell, blasting cap and a pack of white explosive substance believed to be C-4.

Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Jose Braganza told reporters here that during tactical interrogation, Tasil, Kamad and Samuel admitted belonging to the Abu Sayyaf.

Braganza said that Tasil, a resident of Kamalian, Jose Abad Santos town in Davao del Sur, had provided refuge to Nadzmi Saabdula alias Commander Global, after the Abu leader raided the Barcelo Pearl Farm in the Island Garden City of Samal a few years ago.

Kamalian, Braganza said, is considered a haven of the Abu Sayyaf in Davao del Sur.

He said based on investigation, Samuel and Tasil resembled the suspects as described by the witnesses in Sunday's explosion here.

He said Kamad, also a resident of Kamalian, is the Abu Sayyaf's contact in Western Sarangani and General Santos.

Despite the arrest of the suspected bandits, Braganza said the Abu Sayyaf has "no grand plan" to launch terror attacks in key cities in Mindanao.

He said the bandit group might have only wanted to show that it is still a force to reckon with and it could be possible they staged the bomb attack in retaliation for the capture of their leaders.

Braganza said the police and military were still tracking down four more suspects in the bombing.

Supt. Willie Dangane, city police chief, said they already filed charges of illegal possession of explosives against the suspects.

"We are still in the process of gathering statements from witnesses," Dangane said.

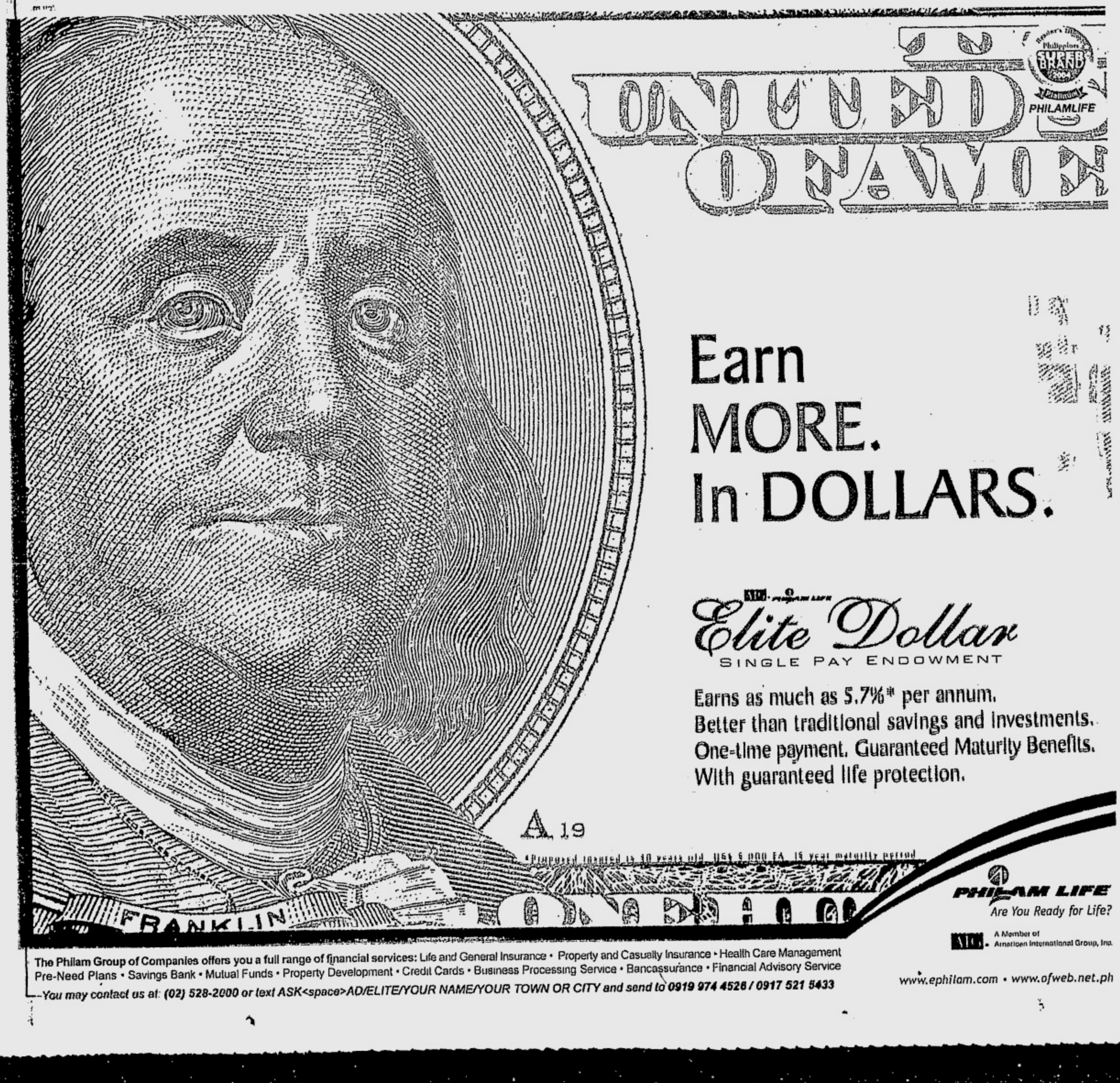
"Based on evidence we have gathered, we filed a case of illegal possession of explosives," the Associated Press quoted Dangane as saying.

Earlier, PNP chief Edgar Aglipay said investigators were considering whether a dispute between two groups wrangling over a market stall may have led to the blast. But he said the involvement of militant groups had not been ruled out.

Dangane said a sixth suspect, an identified Abu Sayyaf member, remains at large.

Dangane, however, insisted that the links do not necessarily mean the bombing was the work of the notorious al-Qaida linked terror group because the bombers could have been just hired for the attack.

*Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AP*



**HOMETOWN FAREWELL** RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**A streamer bidding farewell to the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. hangs on the fence of the city plaza of San Carlos City in Pangasinan. The late actor, whose death is being mourned by thousands across the country, traces his roots in the city.**

# Bulacan, Pampanga farms to get water until April

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ANGELES CITY—Almost 10,000 farmers tilling 26,000 hectares of rice and vegetable farms in Pampanga and Bulacan are assured of irrigation until April next year even as water in the Angat Dam is diverted for the needs of some 12 million Metro Manila households.

Orlando Hondrade, administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, said this was the arrangement reached among officials of the MWSS, National Water Resources Board and National Irrigation Administration, despite the damage to the Umiray tunnel in Quezon and the reduction of water flow from there to Angat Dam in Bulacan.

"We will sustain irrigation until (farmers) can harvest in April," Hondrade said.

But the easing of the so-called water war among farmers on the one hand and government agencies and water concessionaires on the other hand appeared temporary.

"Whether we like it or not, when the water level (at Angat Dam) reaches 180 meters, then nobody could draw water (there) anymore," he said.

Rains dumped by four storms since November had raised the water level, easing the competition among users. The MWSS draws 43 cubic meters of water per second from the dam, he said.

About 50 Dumagat tribesmen on Monday started clearing logs that blocked the Umiray tunnel.

Hondrade said efforts to airlift equipment and supplies to the site, located at the boundary of Dingalan, Aurora, and General Nakar, Quezon, were hampered by the bad weather.

"As long as there are no rains, we're continuing with the work," he said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered him to fast track the de-clogging and repair of the tunnel to avert water shortage in Metro Manila.

The immediate aim is to clear the tunnel of debris to reduce the dirt that gets into the reservoir, he said.

The 13-km tunnel diverts the water from the Umiray River.

Bad weather over the Sierra Madre area on Thursday prevented Ms Arroyo from inspecting the extent of the damage and the progress of repair works.

# Fund lack threatens anti-logging program

OZAMIS CITY—In the absence of alternative measures, forest protection efforts in Zamboanga Peninsula's most important mountain range could suffer from manpower deficiency as a Netherlands-backed environment project terminates within this year.

Rolando Dingal, Mount Malindang protected area superintendent, said the possible financial constraints is making uncertain the sustained deployment of 10 forest guards and the effective functioning of community-based volunteer teams that support forest guarding activities.

At present, the Protected Area Office (PAO) oversees the work of 19 forest guards, nine of whom are funded by the environment department and 10 by the Agencies Working for Environmental Sustainability of Malindang's Environs (Awesome) Project, an environmental conservation program financed by the Dutch government.

In addition, 14 five-man volunteer teams of Bantay Lasang (forest watch) were so far organized to boost forest guarding. They are trained and supervised by the PAO.

But because of PAO's funding deficiency, the Awesome Project provides for the insurance coverage of each volunteer and a P1,500 monthly allowance for each team.

Implemented by CARE Philippines, Awesome seeks to lessen dependence on forest resources as a strategy for sustaining conservation and protection efforts.

Dingal said the five-year project terminates at the end of this year.

In the face of this manpower cutback, Dingal has urged local government units that share a boundary with the Malindang protected area to assume greater responsibility in its forest protection program.

He said that this can be in the form of financing one forest guard and including forest guarding in the mandate of village-level law enforcement structures.

Dingal calculates that if every local government unit around Malindang agrees to finance one forest guard, there would be 14 guards available for deployment.

He said that including forest protection in the mandate of village-level law enforcers would require no financial outlay on the part of every local government unit, only administrative commitment on the part of local executives.

Occupying a 53,262-hectare area that straddles Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, Malindang's remaining forest cover provides about a million people with potable water and irrigation to thousands of farms in the three provinces.

The mountain range is also home to a wealth of species of flora and fauna like the endangered Philippine Eagle.

Forest protection was thrust into the limelight following a series of disasters that struck Aurora and Quezon provinces, triggering landslides and floods that killed hundreds of people. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# *Dad seeks ban on rich kids in public schools*

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Parents of rich kids must do the government a favor: Stop sending their children to government schools.

But a councilor here did not wait for rich parents to step forward and volunteer.

Councilor Rosalio Bombeo Jr. filed a city ordinance that would stop children of well-to-do families from enrolling in the Kidapawan City National High School, Spotswood National High School and the Suerte National High School Annex.

"This is to the advantage of the government as it would reduce the difficulty of the government in funding the education of children with parents who can actually afford to send them to school," Bombeo said.

He said the government should use its resources for poor children instead.

"This is also to decongest the population of the public schools and to lessen the government's financial problem," Bombeo, a neophyte city councilor, said.

However, it seems that nobody is happy over Bombeo's proposal.

Most people here agreed that it is a class legislation.

Even the militant group Anak ng Bayan quickly came out with a position against the proposed ordinance.

Giovanie Tacadao, Anak ng Bayan coordinator for this city, said the proposed ordinance "shows off a flimsy diagnosis and wrong prescription."

"It can never solve the disease," Tacadao said.

He said the problem of the education sector sprung from President Macapagal-Arroyo's wrong priorities.

Tacadao said the government has never given enough priority to education.

He said for 2005, the government only set aside a slim budget of P111.04 million for education.

This, he said, was a far cry from the government's budget for foreign debt payment, which is about 72 percent of the 2005 annual budget of P907.7 billion.

Tacadao said they appreciated the fact that Bombeo was able to recognize how the education sector is riddled with problems, especially the low budget that it gets from the national government, but said the councilor failed to present a sound solution to the problem and even went on to add to the chaos.

"Education is a basic right. The government must give education to everyone that needs it. Public schools should not be exclusive . . . Besides, discrimination is very clear here," Tacadao said.

He said Bombeo's proposal would "even spur class tension."

"This could drag on and become a battle between the rich and the poor," Tacadao said. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**NOTICE TO MAYNILAD WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC**
**NEW WATER RATES FOR THE WEST ZONE**

Effective 15 days from publication in newspapers of general circulation, Maynilad Water Services, Inc. ("Maynilad") will implement a rate adjustment as recommended by the MWSS Regulatory Office per Resolution No. 04-014-CA and approved by the MWSS per Board Resolution No. 2004-301 both dated 24 November 2004.

Maynilad's concession area covers the cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres & Sta. Ana), Quezon (west of San Juan River, West Ave., EDSA, Congressional & Mindanao Ave.; the northern part starting from the Districts of the Holy Spirit & Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Hi-way), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Valenzuela, and the towns of Navotas and Malabon - all in Metro Manila; Cavite City, and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario - all in Cavite province.

| 1. WATER CHARGES | CURRENT | | | | NEW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A. BASIC | B. CERA* | C. FCDA | TOTAL | A. BASIC | B. CERA* | C. FCDA/STM** | TOTAL |
| RESIDENTIAL | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 38.35 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 13.70 /conn. | P 62.05 /conn. | P 66.39 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 14.28 /conn. | P 90.67 /conn. |
| Next 10 cu.m. | 4.68 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 1.67 /cu.m. | 7.35 /cu.m. | 8.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 1.74 /cu.m. | 10.84 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 8.90 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 3.18 /cu.m. | 13.08 /cu.m. | 15.41 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 3.31 /cu.m. | 19.72 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 11.69 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.18 /cu.m. | 16.87 /cu.m. | 20.24 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.35 /cu.m. | 25.59 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 13.66 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.88 /cu.m. | 19.54 /cu.m. | 23.65 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.09 /cu.m. | 29.74 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 14.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.10 /cu.m. | 20.38 /cu.m. | 24.72 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.32 /cu.m. | 31.04 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 14.93 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.34 /cu.m. | 21.27 /cu.m. | 25.85 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.56 /cu.m. | 32.41 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 15.60 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.57 /cu.m. | 22.17 /cu.m. | 27.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 33.82 /cu.m. |
| Over 200 cu.m. | 16.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 23.07 /cu.m. | 28.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.05 /cu.m. | 35.20 /cu.m. |
| SEMI-BUSINESS | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 64.42 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 23.02 /conn. | P 97.44 /conn. | P 111.52 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 23.98 /conn. | P 145.50 /conn. |
| Next 10 cu.m. | 7.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 2.81 /cu.m. | 11.67 /cu.m. | 13.61 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 2.93 /cu.m. | 17.54 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | | 1.00 /cu.m. | 3.46 /cu.m. | 14.15 /cu.m. | 16.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m | 3.61 /cu.m. | 21.38 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | | 1.00 /cu.m. | 4.39 /cu.m. | 17.67 /cu.m. | 21.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 / | 4.57 /cu.m. | 26.83 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 14.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.10 /cu.m. | 20.38 /cu.m. | 24.72 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.32 /cu.m. | 31.04 /cu.m. |
| Next 20 cu.m. | 14.95 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.34 /cu.m. | 21.29 /cu.m. | 25.85 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.57 /cu.m. | 32.45 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 15.60 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.57 /cu.m. | 22.17 /cu.m. | 27.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 33.82 /cu.m. |
| Next 50 cu.m. | 16.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 5.81 /cu.m. | 23.07 /cu.m. | 28.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.05 /cu.m. | 35.20 /cu.m. |
| Over 200 cu.m. | 16.90 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.04 /cu.m. | 23.94 /cu.m. | 29.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.29 /cu.m. | 36.55 /cu.m. |
| BUSINESS GROUP I | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 174.29 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 62.28 /conn. | P 246.57 /conn. | P 301.72 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 64.88 /conn. | P 376.60 /conn. |
| Next 90 cu.m. | 17.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.25 /cu.m. | 24.76 /cu.m. | 30.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.52 /cu.m. | 37.83 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.56 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.27 /cu.m. | 24.83 /cu.m. | 30.40 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.54 /cu.m. | 37.94 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.61 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.29 /cu.m. | 24.90 /cu.m. | 30.49 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.56 /cu.m. | 38.05 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.67 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.31 /cu.m. | 24.98 /cu.m. | 30.59 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.58 /cu.m. | 38.17 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.73 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.34 /cu.m. | 25.07 /cu.m. | 30.69 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.60 /cu.m. | 38.29 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.82 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.37 /cu.m. | 25.19 /cu.m. | 30.85 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.63 /cu.m. | 38.48 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.89 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.39 /cu.m. | 25.28 /cu.m. | 30.97 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.66 /cu.m. | 38.63 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 17.94 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.41 /cu.m. | 25.35 /cu.m. | 31.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.68 /cu.m. | 38.74 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 18.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.43 /cu.m. | 25.44 /cu.m. | 31.18 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.70 /cu.m. | 38.88 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 18.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.45 /cu.m. | 25.51 /cu.m. | 31.26 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.72 /cu.m. | 38.98 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.49 /cu.m. | 25.64 /cu.m. | 31.42 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.76 /cu.m. | 39.18 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.20 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.50 /cu.m. | 25.70 /cu.m. | 31.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.78 /cu.m. | 39.29 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.53 /cu.m. | 25.81 /cu.m. | 31.65 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.81 /cu.m. | 39.46 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.34 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.55 /cu.m. | 25.89 /cu.m. | 31.75 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.83 /cu.m. | 39.58 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 18.39 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.57 /cu.m. | 25.96 /cu.m. | 31.84 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.85 /cu.m. | 39.69 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.44 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.59 /cu.m. | 26.03 /cu.m. | 31.92 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.86 /cu.m. | 39.78 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.54 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.63 /cu.m. | 26.17 /cu.m. | 32.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.90 /cu.m. | 40.00 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.60 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.64 /cu.m. | 26.24 /cu.m. | 32.20 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.92 /cu.m. | 40.12 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.67 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.67 /cu.m. | 26.34 /cu.m. | 32.32 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.95 /cu.m. | 40.27 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.70 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.68 /cu.m. | 26.38 /cu.m. | 32.37 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.96 /cu.m. | 40.33 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.78 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.71 /cu.m. | 26.49 /cu.m. | 32.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.99 /cu.m. | 40.50 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.74 /cu.m. | 26.60 /cu.m. | 32.65 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.02 /cu.m. | 40.67 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.91 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.76 /cu.m. | 26.67 /cu.m. | 32.74 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.04 /cu.m. | 40.78 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 18.98 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.78 /cu.m. | 26.76 /cu.m. | 32.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.07 /cu.m. | 40.93 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.05 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.81 /cu.m. | 26.86 /cu.m. | 32.98 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.09 /cu.m. | 41.07 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.82 /cu.m. | 26.92 /cu.m. | 33.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.11 /cu.m. | 41.17 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.17 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.85 /cu.m. | 27.02 /cu.m. | 33.19 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.14 /cu.m. | 41.33 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.24 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.87 /cu.m. | 27.11 /cu.m. | 33.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.16 /cu.m. | 41.47 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.90 /cu.m. | 27.21 /cu.m. | 33.43 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.19 /cu.m. | 41.62 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.92 /cu.m. | 27.30 /cu.m. | 33.55 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.21 /cu.m. | 41.76 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 19.43 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.94 /cu.m. | 27.37 /cu.m. | 33.64 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.23 /cu.m. | 41.87 /cu.m. |
| Over 10000 cu.m. | 19.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.97 /cu.m. | 27.48 /cu.m. | 33.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.26 /cu.m. | 42.03 /cu.m. |
| BUSINESS GROUP II | | | | | | | | |
| First 10 cu.m. | P 188.59 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 67.38 /conn. | P 265.97 /conn. | P 326.48 /conn. | P 10.00 /conn. | P 70.20 /conn. | P 406.68 /conn. |
| Next 90 cu.m. | 18.98 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.78 /cu.m. | 26.76 /cu.m. | 32.86 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.07 /cu.m. | 40.93 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.10 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.82 /cu.m. | 26.92 /cu.m. | 33.06 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.11 /cu.m. | 41.17 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.24 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.87 /cu.m. | 27.11 /cu.m. | 33.31 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.16 /cu.m. | 41.47 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.92 /cu.m. | 27.30 /cu.m. | 33.55 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.21 /cu.m. | 41.76 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.51 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 6.97 /cu.m. | 27.48 /cu.m. | 33.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.26 /cu.m. | 42.03 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.64 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.02 /cu.m. | 27.66 /cu.m. | 34.00 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.31 /cu.m. | 42.31 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.07 /cu.m. | 27.84 /cu.m. | 34.22 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.36 /cu.m. | 42.58 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 19.89 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.11 /cu.m. | 28.00 /cu.m. | 34.43 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.40 /cu.m. | 42.83 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 20.03 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.16 /cu.m. | 28.19 /cu.m. | 34.67 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.46 /cu.m. | 43.13 /cu.m. |
| Next 100 cu.m. | 20.15 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.20 /cu.m. | 28.35 /cu.m. | 34.88 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.50 /cu.m. | 43.38 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.28 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.24 /cu.m. | 28.52 /cu.m. | 35.11 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.55 /cu.m. | 43.66 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.40 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.29 /cu.m. | 28.69 /cu.m. | 35.32 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.60 /cu.m. | 43.92 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.55 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.34 /cu.m. | 28.89 /cu.m. | 35.58 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.65 /cu.m. | 44.23 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.66 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.38 /cu.m. | 29.04 /cu.m. | 35.77 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.69 /cu.m. | 44.46 /cu.m. |
| Next 200 cu.m. | 20.80 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.43 /cu.m. | 29.23 /cu.m. | 36.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.74 /cu.m. | 44.75 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 20.94 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.48 /cu.m. | 29.42 /cu.m. | 36.25 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.80 /cu.m. | 45.05 /cu.m. |
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| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.33 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.62 /cu.m. | 29.95 /cu.m. | 36.93 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.94 /cu.m. | 45.87 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.44 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.66 /cu.m. | 30.10 /cu.m. | 37.12 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.98 /cu.m. | 46.10 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.59 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.71 /cu.m. | 30.30 /cu.m. | 37.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.04 /cu.m. | 46.42 /cu.m. |
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| Next 500 cu.m. | 21.83 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 7.80 /cu.m. | 30.63 /cu.m. | 37.79 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.13 /cu.m. | 46.92 /cu.m. |
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| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.49 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.04 /cu.m. | 31.53 /cu.m. | 38.93 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.37 /cu.m. | 48.30 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.63 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.09 /cu.m. | 31.72 /cu.m. | 39.18 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.43 /cu.m. | 48.61 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.75 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.13 /cu.m. | 31.88 /cu.m. | 39.38 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.47 /cu.m. | 48.85 /cu.m. |
| Next 500 cu.m. | 22.89 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.18 /cu.m. | 32.07 /cu.m. | 39.63 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.52 /cu.m. | 49.15 /cu.m. |
| Over 10000 cu.m. | 23.01 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.22 /cu.m. | 32.23 /cu.m. | 39.83 /cu.m. | 1.00 /cu.m. | 8.56 /cu.m. | 49.39 /cu.m. |

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# Detained general wants to be home for Christmas

From page A1

quest," he said.

Davila said allowing Garcia a holiday break even for humanitarian reasons would be perceived as a form of special treatment or favoritism by both the public and members of the Armed Forces.

"Perhaps, even the slightest hint of impropriety should be avoided," he said.

Sought for his opinion, defense counsel Lt. Col. Antonio Doronila said he saw no reason for the request to be rejected.

"The accused is already retired and has posted bail in civilian c s," Doronila said. "The civilian court trusts his willingness to go back and [face] trial, [so] I don't see any reason why the military [should] not trust him to come back."

## 2 options

The general court-martial later gave Garcia two options: spend either Dec. 24-26 or Dec. 31-Jan. 2 in his house at No. 61 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, or receive family and friends in both periods provided that the celebrations are confined within the compound of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, where he is detained.

Informed of the options, Garcia chose to spend "New Year at Chicago," said Capt. Candelaria Rivas, spokesperson for the Judge Advocate General's Office.

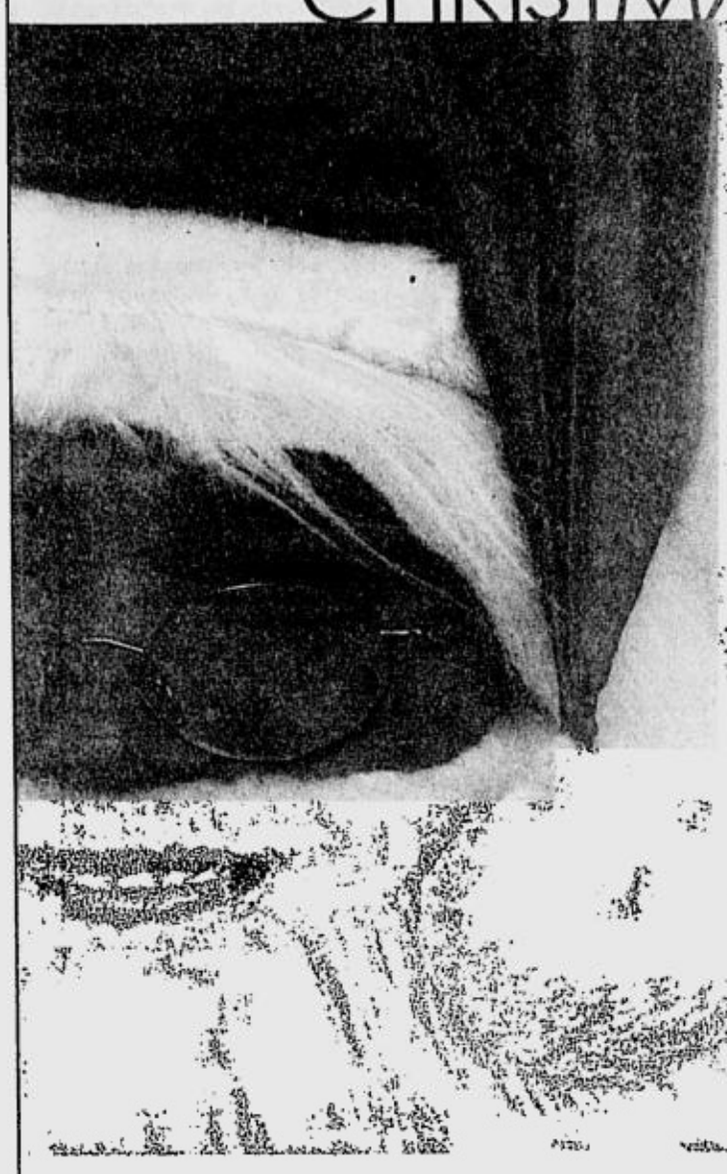
But according to Teodosio, the two options are merely recommendatory. It is still AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu who has the authority to decide on the request.

Rivas said it was even possible for Abu to reject Garcia's request and keep him confined throughout the holidays.

Teodosio said the Magdalo mutineers, who are also facing a general court-martial, had made a similar request but were turned down.

But in case Garcia gets lucky and his request is granted, he will be put under tight security, said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP information officer.


GRAND HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS CHEER



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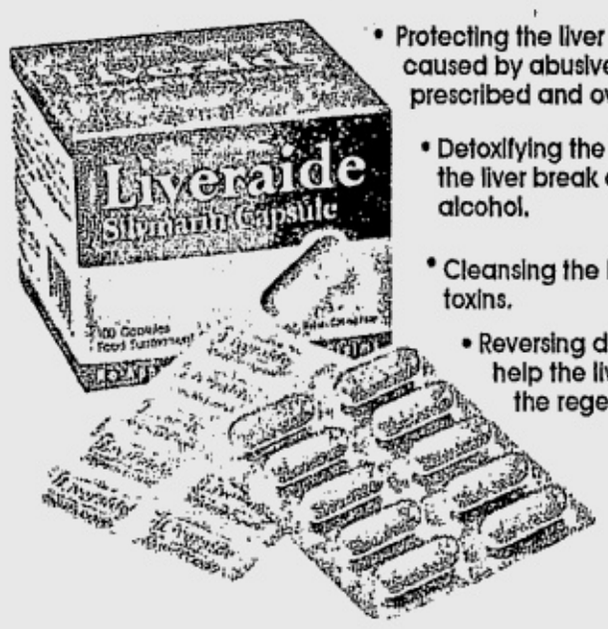


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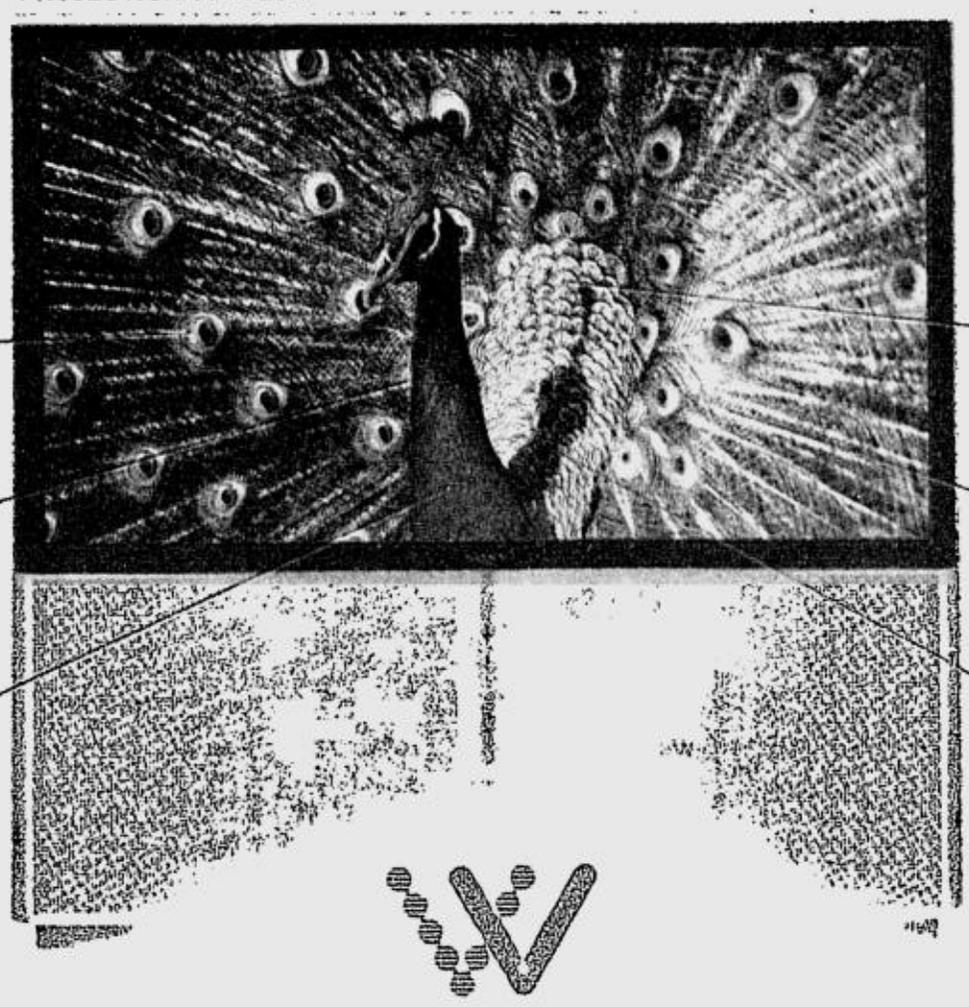

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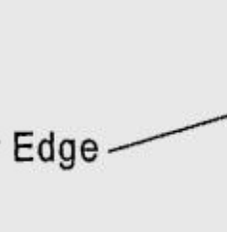
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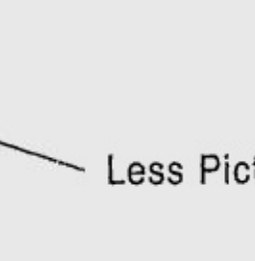
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# Susan presses attack: Nobody will tell us to shut up

From page A1

said, adding:

"It just proves that [the Poes] did not join politics with eyes half-closed."

Roces told the lawmakers that she was extremely frustrated as she watched the televised canvass of the votes in June.

"My heart was bleeding when I was watching the canvass in the halls of Congress. What a sorry sight!" she said.

"All of you, most of you, you spent so much time to go to school, to study law, to study how to behave properly. How sad ... and the whole world was able to watch us. This is the cause that I'm fighting for—to [redeem] the pride of the Filipino people in the eyes of the world."

### 'Noted'

Roces said she was happy to see your faces in the House. She and the lawmakers—among them Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva, Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara and Laguna Rep. Justin Chipeco—that they were the "hope" of the country.

"All of you will someday run [again] for a position," Roces said. "All of you have the fear of being cheated. We must put a stop to it.

"So much is being spent because of all the cheating. And that's why our government is corrupt—because we are forced to corruption, to be able to serve that very long."

Roces also said her husband's fight "to unearth the truth" was not for himself alone. "It is to put a stop to this very dirty politics. To put some pride back in public service," she said.

At one point, she told Dilangalen: "Nobody will tell us to shut up, nobody will say, 'Noted.'" The last was a reference to how questions and statements by opposition lawmakers on the canvass procedure were dismissed by the canvass panel.

### Out of her shell

"The true Susan has finally come out," Dilangalen later told the INQUIRER. "She is out of her shell."

Cibac's Villanueva said that it was his first time to meet Roces, and that he was "surprised at the way she carried herself."

"I could see her courage, her strength, her determination to continue to fight—the same fight that [Poe] started," he said.

Toward the end of the conversation, Roces admitted to knowing little about politics or governance.

"But one thing I know is the 10 commandments, and the golden rule," she said. "It's the best guide in any profession: Do not do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you. Because look at the results!" she said.

### 'Valid' criticism

Later yesterday, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the people should appreciate Roces' candor.

"They heard things that were never said before," Pimentel said in a phone interview, referring to Roces' remarks on TV lamenting how her husband was treated when he ran for president.

Pimentel, who, like Poe ran under the opposition banner Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, said Roces' criticism of the TV station ABS-CBN was "valid."

"[Poe's] candidacy did not get a fair shake from ABS-CBN," he said, and cited as instance the times when the network "would not pan into the size of the crowd" during Poe's campaign rallies, and "constricted the [camera] shots to make it appear that the crowd was not that big."

### 'Fed up'

Former Sen. Vicente Sotto III, a close friend of Poe's, said Roces could have made the remarks because she got fed up with "the hypocrisy of some people."

And this included people running ABS-CBN network which Sotto said had an unfair coverage of Poe during the presidential campaign early this year.

"How can they (ABS-CBN) call him (Poe) *kapamilya* (part of the family) when they treated him badly?" Sotto said, referring to the TV plugs now being shown by the network.

Sotto described Roces as "very honest and sincere." He added: "If you don't want the answer, don't ask her."

### Intractable

According to Pimentel, Roces is not interested in politics or even in leading a political movement.

"I think we in the opposition should respect that and not titillate her into jumping into the political fray, for which she has no inclination," he said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago shared Pimentel's observation that Roces was not inclined to enter politics.

"I think she will prove intractable to any seduction from power groups with their own individual agenda," Santiago said.

She said political forces would not be able to manipulate Roces, "but they may be able to manipulate the masses—that is the danger."

"I think the jeopardy to national political stability will arise after [Poe's] burial [on Dec. 22]," she said.

Santiago observed that Filipinos tended to be "respectfully silent" during a wake.

### 'Hysterical'

"But [afterward], people have been known to become hysterical and take panic action. That is what we are hoping to prevent; that is what Mrs. Poe is trying hard to prevent," she said.

Santiago had earlier warned that "professional saboteurs" might try to take advantage of the grief of the Poe supporters and lead destabilization moves against the Arroyo administration. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

# ABS-CBN survey says public agrees with Susan

From page A1

overwhelmingly agreed with her, according to text messages received by dzMM, a radio station owned by ABS-CBN.

The radio station received 45 pages of text messages after an unusually outspoken Roces was interviewed by ABS-CBN Thursday night. An overwhelming "98 percent, or practically all of the texters" agreed with Roces' criticisms of ABS-CBN," a source from the giant television network told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER tried to contact dzMM management but at press time, they had not sent any statement.

### 'Defend Karen'

Anticipating a backlash, the source said ABS-CBN top management requested Ted Failon and Korina Sanchez, who co-anchor a morning show on dzMM, "to defend Karen," referring to Karen Davila of TV Patrol World who interviewed Roces live from the Sto. Domingo Church Thursday night.

But Sanchez, who had been eased out of TV Patrol and replaced by Davila a few months ago, did not show up for yesterday's morning show.

One of the news editors of ABS-CBN confirmed that there was some discussion about Davila's conduct during the interview of Roces, but he said "the management stands by Karen."

"We are hurt by the backlash. We are not contesting the issues raised by Susan Roces because these are her perceptions," the editor, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER.

He said there was a "good side" to the landmark interview, which showed Roces, dubbed as one of the most beautiful faces in local show biz, in a fighting mood.

"At least, Susan gave us the sound bites. Imagine if she had given them to Mel (Tiangco of the rival Channel 7)," the editor said.

The source also said the incident should be viewed along with other "incidents" related to the Poe campaign in the May elections.

"This is a series, *marami na yan* (there were a lot)," he said, citing the reported plan of ABS-CBN to terminate the contract of comedian Dolphy from the sitcom "Home Along..." because the "king of comedy" had chosen to support Poe in the campaign.

### The interview

Roces gave Davila an interview Thursday night, after talking to Ali Sotto of ABC-5 and Tiangco of GMA 7.

In a rare outburst of anger, the actress, known to be demure and proper, said that in the May election coverage, ABS-CBN reporters allegedly took only "tight shots" of her husband's campaign to give the impression that FPJ's sorties were not well-attended.

Roces told Davila: "People don't want to watch your news coverage because you capitalize on personal hurt."

"*Masama ang loob ko sa inyo* (I was hurt by), Channel 2," she said bluntly.

ABS-CBN reporters were also hurt and affected by Roces' accusations that their station had been biased in its coverage of the recent national elections.

While vigorously defending the station, at least one reporter said it was "good" that someone verbalized ABS-CBN's "biased" coverage of Fernando Poe Jr.'s campaign.

"I'm not saying that we are guilty. Personally, I'm not. But something should be done with this kind of perception because it is unfair to us," the reporter said, on condition of anonymity.

Asked whether the exchange between Davila and Roces would affect the network's coverage of Poe's wake, the reporter said it would not.

"We are still here. We are still covering it. We all know it's a job that has to be done," one of them said.

### Susan's order of preference

But as to what really happened that night, people close to the Poe family said ABC-5's Sotto was to interview Roces first, followed by GMA 7's Tiangco, and finally ABS-CBN's Davila.

This, they said, was what Roces herself wanted.

Sotto came first because she is a friend of the Poe family, according to a source familiar with Poe's media affairs. But Davila insisted on interviewing Roces ahead of Tiangco.

The source said ABS-CBN had secured an interview with Roces after Sotto through a key media officer within the Poe camp.

Without this media officer's knowing it, however, two persons close to Roces said OK to Tiangco after Sotto.

To set matters straight, they asked Roces how she preferred the order of the interviews. It was then that the widow said she wanted ABC-5 first, followed by GMA 7 and last with ABS-CBN.

# *Allies see FPJ death as catalyst for Erap comeback*

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

FERNANDO Poe Jr.'s death is the "catalyst" and his wife Susan Roces the "inspiration" for change that may make his best friend President again, according to two members of the opposition.

Drawing political scenarios that may follow the death of the icon known as "Da King" or "FPJ," former Sen. Francisco Tatad and former Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen yesterday raised the possibility that deposed President Joseph "Erap" Estrada would be reinstalled in Malacañang.

"There is now an outpouring of support for the family of FPJ. This might be a catalyst in the quest for immediate change here in our nation... the catalyst we have been waiting for," said Dilangalen.

People wanting to see the screen idol for the last time are standing in line for hours at the St. Martin's Chapel in Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City—an indication of the popularity that Poe is still wielding even in death.

With this show of sympathy for the bereaved family, Tatad said President Macapagal-Arroyo would no longer able to govern.

"Even if she stays, she will be unable to govern, and nobody occupies the presidency if you cannot govern. You have to go," Tatad said, adding:

"He (Poe) died while trying to right a grievous political wrong. FPJ died physically, but I think GMA (Ms Arroyo) died politically."

Poe died of a stroke a minute past midnight on Dec. 14, succumbing to a sudden attack due to a clogged artery in his brain.

Dilangalen, a lawyer, said Poe's election protest at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal would still be pursued because it was "a matter of public interest."

# Da King had 5 best traits ...

From page A1

leaning toward mother rather than father figures, and their yearning for a champion of the downtrodden have all contributed to elevate Poe to his status as "Da King," according to Felipe de Leon Jr., humanities professor at the University of the Philippines.

No doubt the man familiarly called FPJ churned out "formula" action flicks, but the poor folk he played onscreen turned out to have "counterparts in real life," noted Flory Lagbao Bolante, psychology professor at the De La Salle University.

And to a German like the Baguio-based book author Katrin de Guia, "Filipinos are highly idealistic people who thrive on myths. FPJ is such a myth."

"Ang Panday" a mother figure? Quite possibly. The cinematic Poe may have lethal fists and other macho qualities but it's ironically his "nurturing, mother-like" qualities that endeared him even more to fans, especially those aware of his less publicized works of charity, De Leon told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We are a matriarchal society. We call our country 'motherland'—from whom we expect emotional tenderness—rather than 'fatherland,' which conveys the image of a disciplinarian, a firm decision-maker," he said.

### Nurturing is No. 1

Citing a UP study in which he took part, De Leon said that of the five best traits Filipinos wanted in a leader, being "*mapagkalinga* (nurturing), which we expect from mothers," emerged as the most important.

He said the other qualities they valued in a leader were being "*maka-diyos* (God-centered)," courageous, and just. Being "intelligent" was the least of their concerns.

Poe was, of course, not alone in being a generous Good Samaritan, "but Filipinos saw his sincerity, as compared to those who help others as a calculated investment for some future elections."

"By creating harmony with other people, by not keeping himself separate from the rest," the late movie legend and presidential candidate also appealed to Filipinos' sense of the spiritual, De Leon said, adding:

"We are one of the few cultures in the world that take spirituality to mean harmony with the rest of creation, with the Divine. FPJ is so much a symbol of that, and he wouldn't have been that popular if he didn't represent something sacred to the Filipino."

For Bolante, Poe's fans now turning out by the thousands at his wake had also identified with his "martyr" roles in his movies.

"This is because we are not really a violent people. Add to that our being Christians who find it OK to be *mapagbigay, mapagpaubaya* (giving) like the suffering Christ," she said.

But while Poe's movies were always built around the element of martyrdom, in the end they conveyed how "the Filipino can take a beating, but then he will finally strike back if you malign his honor or also threaten his loved ones," Bolante said.

Also crucial in explaining the current FPJ fanaticism was the recent election, she said.

If Poe never entered politics, Bolante said, Filipinos would just be burying a well-loved movie legend.

"But we are seeing such a show of emotions now because the fan-idol relationship has gone into a deeper level of leader-follower relationship," she said. "That's why we are now also hearing comparisons between FPJ and Ninoy [Aquino, the opposition leader assassinated in 1983]."

Lingering allegations that Poe was cheated in the closely fought presidential race in May have left his supporters "feeling they were robbed of a leader," Bolante said. "This is where the emotions are coming from."

### Mythical

Through the foreign eyes of De Guia, writer, cultural worker, and wife of independent filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, "FPJ is such a myth. He stands for Pinoy hopes, dreams and aspirations—at least [that's] how the people know him best from his films."

"He played the incorruptible, honest guy. And as my research showed, facts and fantasies blur in Pinoy culture... We don't know where the [movie] character ends and the real person begins," she said.

De Guia has a Ph.D. in Filipino psychology and has written a book on the Filipino concept of *kapwa tao* (fellow man). The book is due for release in February.

She described FPJ as a "heart person," based on "testimonies I've watched on TV reveal[ing] that he helped a lot of people without wanting anybody to know."

### 'A heart person'

"That's why I would be concerned if he made it as a president," she said. "Such a heart person will have a hard time dealing with heartless people in politics, especially foreigners, global politicians or business interests, who would come here with their subtle corruption."


TOWER AWARDS, symbol of excellence for Filipino workers, have honored Toyota laborers like 'Beldio' Dioquino.

"Work is hard. Physically, production is exhausting," said Belcezar Dioquino, Jr., welding line Team Leader at Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation.

This reality hasn't stopped Belcezar from achieving excellence in his work. He has even been rewarded for his exemplary performance.

This year, Beldio (as he is commonly called) was recognized as one of the 2004 Tower Awardees for the Rotary Club of Manila. Known as 'The Outstanding Workers of the Republic' (Tower), the awards honor the country's most outstanding non-supervisory blue-collar and white-collar workers of the country.

It is not difficult to see how this 30-year old from Bacolod City could have earned this distinction.

Beldio operates by the philosophy of constant improvement called kaizen - one of Toyota's core work values. In one interview, Beldio said, "If quality should be good, the condition of the process and employees should be good."

A staunch kaizen advocate, Beldio was able to contribute 65 improvements for the manufacturing line at Toyota's Santa Rosa, Laguna plant. He has been cited many times for having the most number of innovations.

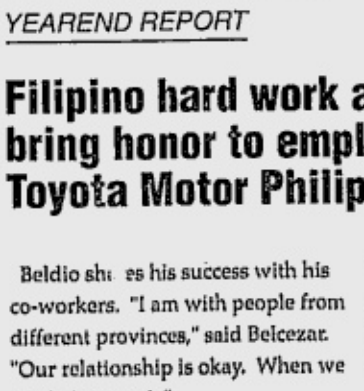
YEAREND REPORT

**Filipino hard work and Japanese kaizen bring honor to employee of Toyota Motor Philippines**

Beldio shares his success with his co-workers. "I am with people from different provinces," said Belcezar. "Our relationship is okay. When we work, it is work."

The 10-year Toyota veteran says that they help each other in the line. "I give them suggestions on how to improve our process and make it better and safe for all of us," he shared.

According to Beldio, he and his colleagues always emphasize quality, consistency, and safety in their work. "In this manner," he explains, "not only does the company benefit but the employees do as well."



Toyota Motor Philippines has always valued its employees. It has provided support with training and other programs designed to continually hone their skills. Employees like Beldio are models of the success of these efforts.

The value placed on their employees is evident in the plant consolidation at Sta. Rosa, Laguna that Toyota has embarked on. Management has taken every step to ensure that every employee is cared for. Toyota has announced all workers will be retained despite the consolidation exercise. Toyota is on the move, leading the way.

Beldio and his peers share management's desire and drive to grow the company. "Show the best quality in your work. Be consistent with the programs of the company," he said.

# JDV loses 'light of my life'

From page A1

when we tried to go inside repeatedly but it couldn't be done."

He said the Makati force firemen had the most modern equipment "but it's not enough because rescue squads should have an asbestos suit so they could go in for the rescue."

"My daughter brought us so much happiness and so much joy, occasional pain but so much happiness and so much joy. For us she is really irreplaceable."

"Next to my wife, she is the light of my life. She was so vivacious," De Venecia said of his 16-year-old daughter.

KC, his youngest, died 10 days before the Speaker was to mark his 68th birthday.

The fire was the latest of a string of tragedies to befall Filipino homes as the nation prepared to celebrate the year-end holidays, making this for some their bleakest ever Christmas.

In late November and early this month, more than 1,200 people died in deadly storms in Luzon. Less than a week ago, a massive stroke felled national movie idol Fernando Poe Jr.

De Venecia was himself injured in the fire when he tried several times to enter his blazing house in an effort to save his daughter but he was driven back by the heat, his office said.

He had come rushing home from a meeting at the House of Representatives with other lawmakers on revenue measures.

Seeing his house in flames, De Venecia stripped to his undershirt and was seen throwing buckets of water in a desperate effort to help contain the fire.

KC uttered her plea for help when her elder sister, Carissa, called her on her cell phone.

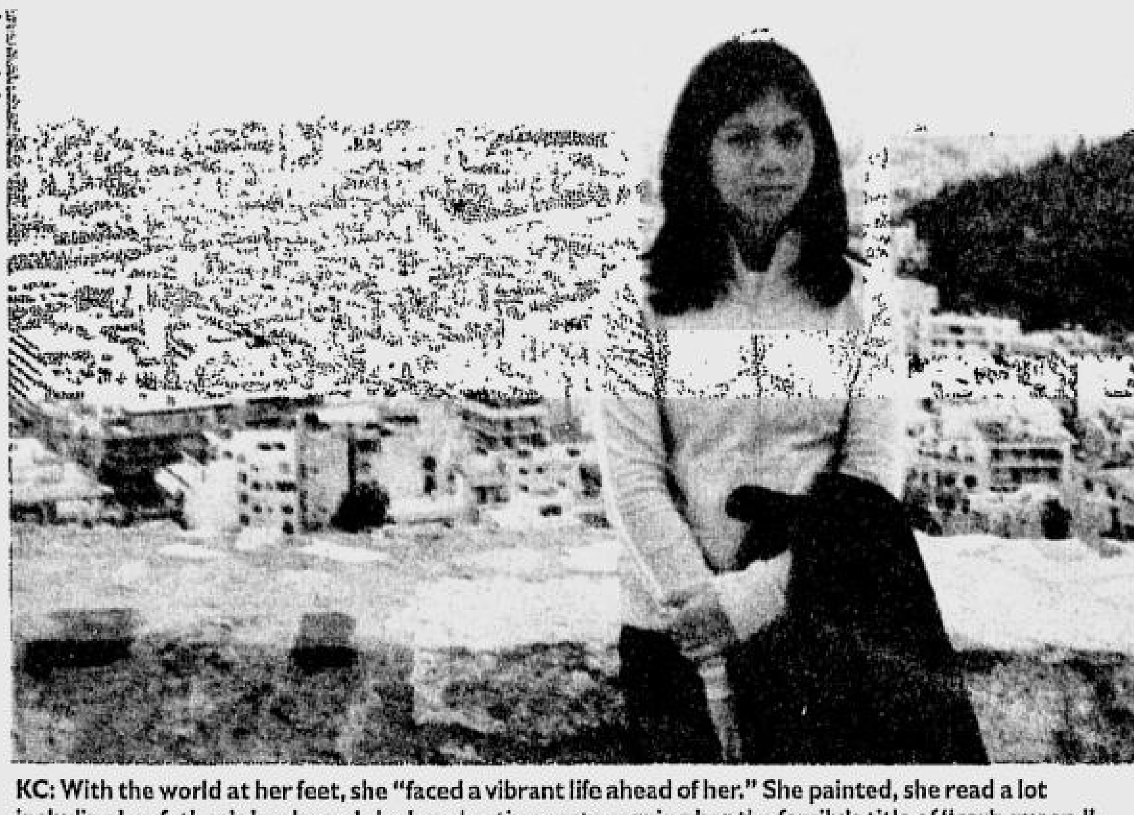
## PREVENTING FIRES

- Make sure each household member knows where to run in case of fire. It is best to have two ways of getting out of each room and designate a meeting place outside.
- Windows and doors with steel grills must have quick release devices to allow them to be opened immediately, or, use grills that have openings secured by padlocks. Make sure each member knows where the keys are, or make several duplicates and give each one a copy.
- Have at least one smoke detector on each house level including the basement. Detectors should be free of dust, have new batteries each year and tested monthly.
- Have a fire extinguisher and every member must know how to use it.
- Never overload circuits and extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under carpets or over nails.
- Unplug appliances not in use.
- Practice alerting other members of the house (yelling, pounding the walls, etc). It is a good idea to keep a bell and flashlight in each bedroom.
- Practice evacuating while blindfolded since in real fire situation the amount of smoke will make seeing difficult.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke out of bedrooms, giving one additional time to escape.
- If you have Christmas lights, check lights for frayed wires, gaps in insulations, broken or cracked sockets and excessive wear. Use only lighting listed by approved testing laboratory. Also, do not link three light strands unless directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging it into the outlet. Periodically check wires and make sure they are not warm to the touch.
- Post emergency numbers near telephones (Association of Volunteer Fire Chiefs & Firefighters of the Philippines: 160-16; Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigades Inc.: 522-2222)

## IN CASE OF FIRE

- Time is critical. Don't waste time getting dressed or finding valuables, just get out.
- Parents should remember that kids will try to hide from fire, so be sure to check closets and under the bed.
- Try to get a wet cloth to cover yourself or at least your nose, stay low and crawl out of the burning area since smoke does not stick to the floor and instead floats up in the air.
- Feel all doors before opening them. If door is hot, get out another way.
- Learn to stop, drop to the ground and roll if clothes catch fire.

Sources: SFO4 Alexander Agader of the Bureau of Fire Protection; United States Fire Administration



KC: With the world at her feet, she "faced a vibrant life ahead of her." She painted, she read a lot including her father's books and she loved eating pasta earning her the family's title of "carb queen."

### House impenetrable

The girl failed to get out of the house because the grand staircase was already engulfed in flames, firemen said.

Unable to get down the staircase, KC apparently then ran to her brother Christopher's bathroom, wrapped herself with a wet blanket and lay in the bathtub in an attempt to protect herself, they said.

Firemen who tried to find KC inside her own room decided to go back outside when the ceiling of the second floor collapsed, fire bureau official Supt. Ruben Morales said.

Another fire official, Chief Insp. Rachel Avilla of the Makati Fire Department, said rescuers found KC around 2 a.m., or 30 minutes before the fire was completely put out.

"We had a hard time getting inside the house because it was practically impenetrable," Avilla said.

### Padlocked fire exit

She said that the grills, bulletproof glass windows and sliding doors, and a "padlocked" fire exit made it initially impossible for firemen to reach the second floor and rescue the girl.

Avilla also said the rescuers had a difficult time going inside the house because of the thick smoke coming from the burning curtains and carpet.

"The Speaker (De Venecia) was trying to get us to go inside the house to rescue his daughter after conducting a head count," Avilla said.

The fire official also said KC's sister repeatedly told them that she could hear someone yelling for help.

"She also said she was able to talk to her sister on her cell phone," Avilla said.

It was about 10:45 p.m. when Carissa received a frantic call from a secretary of De Venecia saying a fire had broken out and that the family was looking for KC.

### Last moments

Knowing KC was in the house, Carissa immediately drove to the De Venecia residence and dialed KC's mobile phone.

"I called up KC and asked her, 'Where are you, how are you?'" De Venecia's spokesperson Emmanuel "Noel" Albano quoted her as saying.

KC's answer was: "Ate (Sister), help, help."

Other accounts said KC apparently was able to talk to other relatives while the fire raged through the house.

"Please help me ... I'm inside the bathroom," she told a relative when asked about her location, according to Morales.

Carissa said that on Thursday evening, she spent time with KC and Christopher at the De Venecia residence.

### No right tools for grills

Christopher, 18, had invited KC for coffee at the nearby Starbucks outlet at the village shopping center. KC agreed and changed clothes but changed her mind and instead ordered pizza.

Carissa left for her own house at around 10 p.m., knowing KC did not leave house.

Firemen climbed from outside the second floor but they could not cut the steel window grills because they did not have the right tools, Carissa related to Albano.

The fire was contained at 2:30 a.m. and it was after this that KC's body was found.

Morales said that based on the statement of witnesses, the Christmas lights in the house had been on for more than a day, causing them to overheat and explode.

The fire first gutted the living room and the kitchen of the house before spreading across the entire second floor, where the bedrooms of the family members were located.

### Smart girl

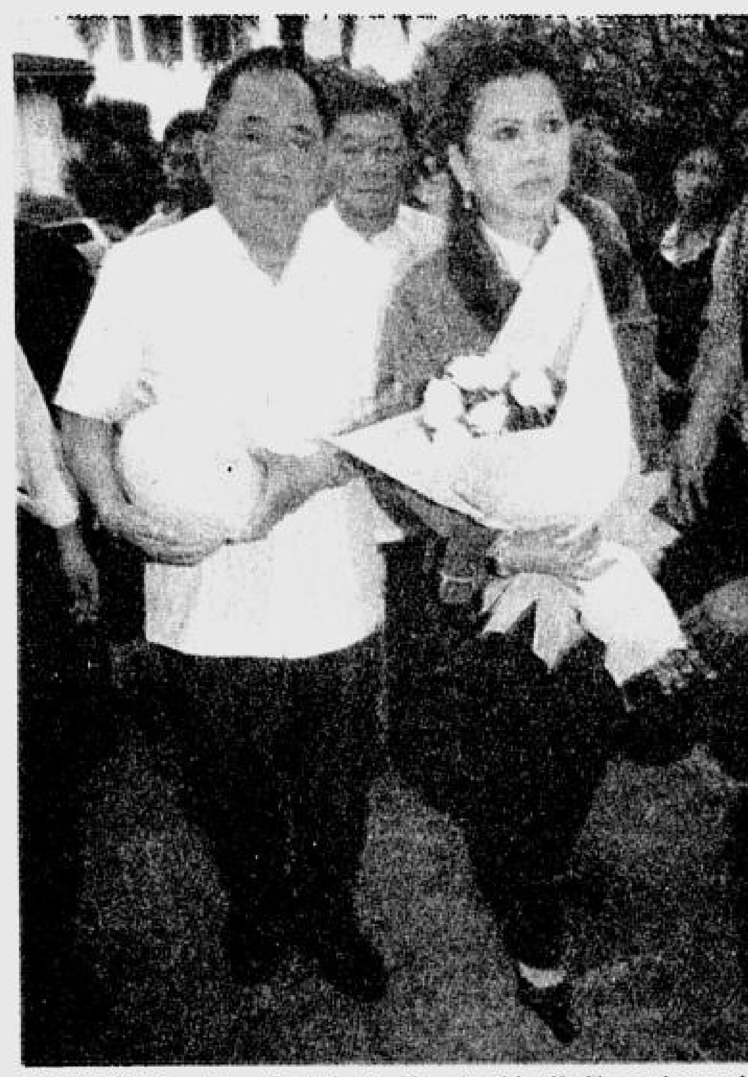
"She was a smart girl. She really wanted to survive so she wrapped herself in a blanket and went to the bathtub. She knew exactly what was to be done," Albano quoted Carissa as saying.

Albano said the steel window grills, which were standard in all of the rooms in the house, had prevented KC from escaping.

Morales said the fire began around 11:20 p.m. when a housemaid heard shouts from the second floor of the house. The security guard on duty tried in vain to put out the flames with an extinguisher.

However, Avilla could not estimate how much property was destroyed in the fire.

"Everything there looked expensive," Avilla said, adding that the fire could have easily destroyed millions worth of furniture.



CRADLING the ashes of his baby, De Venecia with wife Gina arrives at the Santuario de San Antonio to start the vigil for their daughter. ERIK ARAZAS

### Cremation

The fire officials added that they were investigating if the Christmas lights on the tree really overheated and caused the fire.

KC's remains were cremated at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Makati and her ashes taken to the San Antonio Church in Forbes Park.

Daily Masses are set until KC's remains are interred at the San Antonio Church crypt on Dec. 22 at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested cash donations for the newly established KC De Venecia Foundation.

### GMA: A personal loss

President Macapagal-Arroyo went to visit with the grieving family at the Dusit Hotel where the De Venecias had moved after the fire.

"My whole family extends its profound condolences to the family of House Speaker Jose de Venecia," she said.

"We are shocked and upset by, this tragedy that has befallen a staunch ally and friend, and I consider the death of KC a personal loss of one who faced a vibrant life ahead of her. I pray beside Gina and Joe for her eternal peace," Ms Arroyo said.

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# KC on life: 'See what is good in everything'

From page A1

KC's elder sister, Carissa Cruz, whom KC talked with on the cell phone as she pleaded for help, described her as "a fun-loving and passionate girl."

"Sweet, intelligent, a girl who lived life to the fullest ... She spoke her mind freely and loved with all her heart," Carissa said. "She had a great zest for life."

Born April 6, 1988, KC was a talented, budding artist, "a young painter [who] already had an exhibition at the age of 8," De Venecia said.

She was an 8th grader at the International School, equivalent to third year high school, according to a family spokesperson. She attended Colegio de San Agustin in her elementary days.

KC's best friend, Fides Camino, said: "KC was always there for everyone, and very generous. Very sweet. She always pushed other people to strive and not give up. [And] she loved to eat."

"She read a lot, including the Speaker's books. She was really more into reading rather than anything else," said De Venecia's spokesperson, Emmanuel "Noel" Albano.

### Carb Queen

"She was the type who shied away from the public. She was bright and she had a mind of her own," Albano added.

She loved food "and we often called her the "carb queen (carbohydrates queen)" because she loved pasta," Carissa said.

"She had a great gift to convince anyone. She was very persuasive. She would have been a great leader had she chosen to become one."

### 'See good in everything'

KC's love for life was reflected in what she wrote in her school yearbook in 2002: "Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative."

She added: "Many a time, it scares me every time a difficulty or a problem comes my way. Yet I try to discover its true essence and how I'll be able to use it to develop and mold my identity.

"I know, too, that it's better to be an optimist than a pessimist. Hopefully, you too will be able to [see] what's good in everything you cross paths with."

Aside from her parents, KC is survived by her grandmother Mrs. Azucena Vera Perez; brothers Christopher de Venecia, Felipe Cruz III, Jose de Venecia III; and sisters Carissa Cruz, Alexandra Haner, Leslie Norton and Vivian Garcia.

### The children

KC was the youngest of the two children of the De Venecias. The oldest one is Christopher.

Carissa is one of two children Gina had from a previous marriage. She has a brother, Felipe Cruz III.

De Venecia had three children by his previous marriage—Leslie, Vivian and Jose "Joey" de Venecia III.

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*Editor* Ester G. Dipasupil ■ *Assistant Editor* Cenon B. Bibe

# Looters blamed for MRT glitch

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE MANAGEMENT of Metro Rail Transit 3 has blamed looters for incidents of power tripping, including the one that triggered a fire yesterday morning near the Guadalupe station in Makati City.

The MRT-3 suspended operations between Shaw Boulevard to Taft Avenue in Baclaran before 7 a.m. to about 8:10 a.m. yesterday because of the fire.

MRT-3 General Manager Roberto Lastimoso said initial investigation showed that the fire was caused by faulty wiring from damaged steel cables.

An MRT employee at the Guadalupe station had noticed smoke coming out from beneath the southbound tracks around 6:45 yesterday morning. The power was immediately shut off to contain the damage.

Mariano Gui, MRT-3 spokesperson, explained that when electric cables are cut, the system malfunctions, resulting in power tripping. He said the agency had apprehended some "rugby boys" earlier caught trying to steal the cable wires.

He said looters usually try to steal the cables' copper wires found under the tracks. The MRT would discover the cut cables after an unexplainable system malfunction.

Looters sell the copper found in the cables, like their counterparts who offer pilfered telephone cable wires to ready markets. The copper sells for at least P80 a kilo.

Lastimoso said the MRT security team earlier discovered about 20 meters of feeder wire connecting stations Guadalupe and Buendia that were totally burned and damaged.

"We get blamed for the MRT malfunction, but we are victims too, just like the passengers. We cannot provide security every inch of the railway," said Gui.

The MRT-3 had suffered from several instances of tripping and system malfunction for most of the second half of the year.

Gui said wear and tear had also played a part in the malfunctions, with an average volume of 400,000 passengers daily already exceeding the original ridership estimates. He said the agency had not yet come up with a plan that would strengthen the integrity of MRT-3's facilities and guard its cables against looters.

What is important, according to Gui, is that the MRT-3 has been able to respond immediately to any problem and is able to resume operations quickly.

Lastimoso said Makati firefighters, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Manila Electric Co. helped put out the fire and manage the traffic that ensued from the stalled train operations along Edsa.

# Water supply resumes

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has found a solution to the current water supply shortage that its customers are currently experiencing in some parts of Quezon City, Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Manila, Parañaque and Pasay City.

These areas are expected to receive a normal supply of water this weekend, Maynilad said.

Working closely with the National Power Corp., Maynilad temporarily plugged one of the waterways that had been releasing brackish water from the Angat Dam—which is currently the main source for households, electricity generation and irrigation.

Maynilad president Dr. Fiorello Estuar said they would temporarily use the Angat Dam spillway, which delivers clearer water, thus allowing Maynilad's Treatment Plant to operate at its normal capacity processing and clean up some 2,500 million liters of water a day.

The firm had reduced the water supply by 25 percent since its filter plants could take up only so much of the muddy water from Angat Dam.

# Caloocan to raise permit fees

**By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

HOPING to ease its fiscal problems, the Caloocan City local government will increase its permit and certification fees starting next year.

Mayor Enrico Echiverri told the INQUIRER that with the increased rates, the city would double the revenues generated from permits and certifications.

The rate adjustments have been approved by the City Council and will be implemented starting January 2005, the mayor added.

To be directly hit by the rate adjustments are business establishments in the city, while rate increases for residential permits will be implemented in 2006, according to Russel Ramirez, secretary to the mayor.

The City Revenue Code was last updated in 1992.

The updated rates were based on existing rates in the big cities of Manila and Quezon, Echiverri added.

In a statement, the City Hall promised residents that the additional burden would be translated into more government projects.

The city is facing a P50-million debt in unpaid water, electricity and phone bills.

Nearby Malabon City had also proposed an increase in its permits and certification fees.

The City Treasurer's Office, hoping to generate an additional P47 million in annual revenues, has already proposed to the City Council an amendment to the City Revenue Code.

The proposal seeks to increase permit fees for pedicabs, tricycles, buildings and businesses, as well as fees for certifications.

# Dreams come true for stage-struck street kids

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

SHE MAY not be able to see, but 14-year-old Nikki Arabis has a clear view of what she would like to be someday.

"I want to become a singer," she said. "I want to see Regine Velasquez," she continued with excitement, as if her dream was just within reach.

Her first step toward realizing that dream was a chance at being part of a performing arts group of underprivileged kids like her.

Nikki is now one of the lead singers of a sing-and-dance group of street kids from Tondo, Manila, organized by the local social welfare department to perform Christmas carols all over the city this Yuletide season.

"*Maganda naman po* (It's a good experience)," said Nikki, who was among 11 other children from Tondo's shanty communities picked for their potential in the performing arts. "*Hindi ako nawawalan ng pagasa* (I am not losing hope)."

Nikki, first born of three kids, related that she would soon be able to see, and finally attend school, needs that she and her family are unable to afford. Her mother stays at home to watch over her two siblings, while her father is a pedicab driver.

NIKKI Arabis, one of the group's lead singers who has been blind since birth, receives a gift from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With her 11 friends, Nikki, the oldest in the group, has performed in malls, where the group received gifts and cash from sponsors and enthralled audiences.

This month, the group, which is still in search of a name, has performed four times, and has been lined up as front act for other functions of the city's social welfare unit.

Their latest appearance was at a much-applauded "caroling" session dedicated to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza this week. At the end of their performance, Atienza gave them dolls, and promised to give them P300 each.

"Each one shares anything given to them.," said street educator Rosalinda Policarpio.

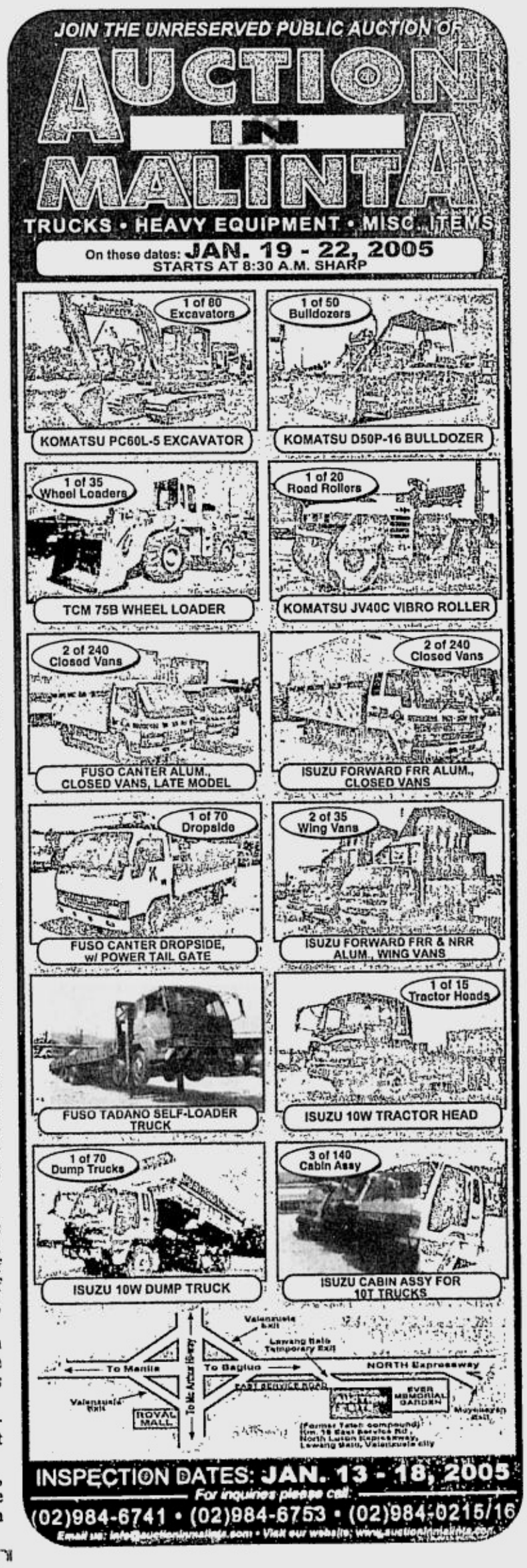
"These are children in need. We learned about their talents when we held an audition for our Palig-Sining cultural contest where we chose kids who were good at singing and dancing.

"And these kids stood out," said another street educator, Jomar Tamondong.

The group's dedication and hard work landed them in the third place in a city-wide performance contest, even while they sang some flat notes and missed a few dance steps.

The runner-up win was followed by other stints, Tamondong added.

"*Nawawala na ang hiya nila. Hindi na sila ilang sa tao* (They have overcome their shyness and no longer feel awkward in front of people)," she said, adding that the social welfare department would still watch over the kids when the Christmas season ends.




## METROBRIEFS

### Ministop project

MINISTOP is now in partnership with ABS-CBN Foundation Sagip Kapamilya, in the organization's drive to aid in rebuilding the lives of typhoon victims. For the month of December, all Ministop outlets will be accepting donations in kind—food, clothing, blankets and other necessities—for the displaced residents of flood-stricken provinces like Quezon, Nueva Ecija and some provinces in the Bicol region. Helping save lives can be as easy as dropping by the nearest Ministop outlet and giving whatever you can share. With the holidays just around the corner, this is the perfect time to spread joy and hope to people in need. Make those little sacrifices and join Ministop in helping ease their plight.

### Letran alumni meet

THE PSYCHOLOGY Area of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran is inviting all its graduates, from 1965 to 2003, to its first-ever reunion of psychology alumni. The event will be held today from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Venue of the affair is the St. Liem dela Paz Garden of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros, Manila. Interested alumni may course their inquiries through the following: Sunshine Balite at 0927-3459876; Niko Marco Gagolinan at 0919-5749468, or Marjorie Ann Gimpaya at 0919-3027612.

# Susan Roces' venomous words

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulfo*

SUSAN Roces, one of the most beautiful faces to grace Philippine cinema, poured her venom on her husband's critics.

Especially mentioned were people who had called FPJ "a mere actor" who should not be in politics.

Ms Roces' outburst of anger is understandable. It came from the depths of her heart which had bottled up the anger for some time. It was like a dam bursting.

But Susan should have known that when her husband entered the dirty world of politics, he would be fair game for the politicians and critics.

As they say, all is fair in love and war. And politics is war.

* * *

**Some stupid people compare FPJ to Ninoy Aquino whose death spurred the Edsa I revolution.**

**Ninoy Aquino was a martyr, FPJ was not.**

**FPJ was a hero in all the movies where he was the leading man. But such heroism was only on the silver screen. In real life, FPJ was an ordinary guy, like you and me, capable of mistakes that human beings are heir to.**

**Of course, Ninoy was also human, making mistakes along the way. But he became larger than life when he shed his blood on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport. His death led to the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.**

**Now, back to FPJ. What would be the actor's rallying point? There is no dictatorship to dislodge because we're already living in a democratic space.**

**To repeat, how stupid could some people get?**

* * *

It's just proper that the Philippine Journalists Inc. (PJI) be returned to its former owners, as mandated by the Supreme Court.

PJI owns the tabloids People's Journal, People's Tonight and Taliba, and the magazines Insider and Women's Journal.

It was sequestered by the Aquino administration which was on a vendetta binge after it took over from the Marcos dictatorship.

PJI was thought to be owned by Kokoy Romualdez, former First Lady Imelda Marcos' brother.

But Kokoy's name never appeared on the list of PJI stockholders. Its former president was Rosario Olivares. The other stockholders were Augusto "Gus" Villanueva, Jose Luna Castro, Manuel Salak Jr., Alex Maramag and Domingo Flores.

PJI owed the government P33.36 million. The high court said that PJI should be returned to its owners after they shall have paid the loan.

The government has no business running a newspaper, and for that matter, any other media outlet. It should leave the praising of its good deeds to private media. Any media outlet run or sequestered by the government becomes suspect once it announces its good deeds.

* * *

**This column commiserates with Speaker Jose de Venecia, his wife Gina, and the rest of their family on the death of their 16-year-old daughter, Kristina Casimira or KC.**

**KC died when the De Venecia residence was destroyed by fire caused by defective Christmas lights.**

**Mr. Speaker and Ms De Venecia, please accept my sincerest condolences.**

**In this season of merrymaking, why did tragedy have to strike your household? That question only the Almighty can answer.**

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Wife asks Pacquiao to train early in US /A26

■ Agojo pips T'pinco after big fightback; Deen makes it 3 A29

■ Pistons smother James, Cavaliers /A30

# Gin Kings crush Barakos, join Phone Pals for lead

By June Navarro

**ANTIPOLO CITY—Barangay Ginebra grabbed big rebounds and ably turned them into baskets to crush Red Bull, 107-89, and join Talk 'N Text at the top of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Ynares Center here.**

Ranged against the best rebounding team in the conference, the Kings gave the Barako a dose of their own medicine with enviable board dominance to overcome a shaky start.

Ginebra's big men underscored the Kings' power around the shaded lane. Erik Menk finished with 26 points and nine rebounds, Romel Adducul chipped in 15 points and 15 boards while Andy Seigle scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half.

The trio helped Ginebra to a 57-49 rebounding edge as even guards Mark Caguioa, Sunday Salvacion and Jayjay Helterbrand did their share off the boards.

Caguioa also rescued the Gin offense down the stretch, tossing in 18 of his 20 points in the second half, including eight in the final five minutes to fuel a late Kings' run on the way to the team's 11th victory in 16 games, tying Talk 'N Text at the top.

The Barako, now out of the twice-to-beat picture, are just half a game up on cellar-dwelling Sta. Lucia (5-10) after absorbing their 10th win in 16 outings.

In the second game, Alaska ripped the game open right in the first quarter and

GIN/ A26

Tagaytay Highlands

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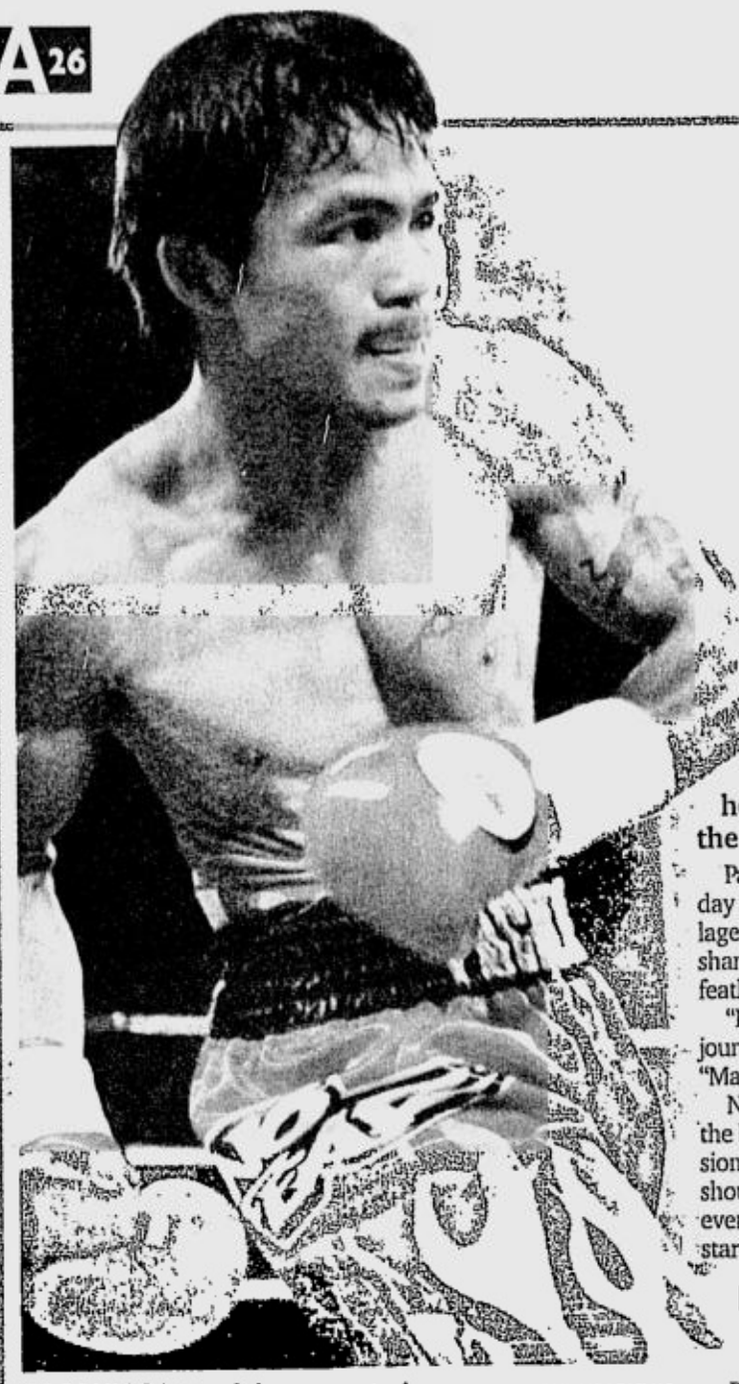


PACQUIAO in good shape, says trainer. EDWIN BACASMAS

# Wife asks Pacquiao to train early in US

By Recah Trinidad and Jasmine W. Payo

**MANNY Pacquiao was to get his birthday wish from lovely wife Jinkee, who yesterday said she would ask the world boxing celebrity to cut short his holidays and leave early to train in the United States, possibly on Dec. 28.**

Pacquiao celebrated his 26th birthday yesterday and played Santa to a great horde of poor villagers who formed an endless line to get their share of goodies and cash from the Ring Magazine featherweight boxing champion.

"I've never seen so many poor people," reported journalist Ronnie Nathanielsz yesterday afternoon. "Manny ran out of rice and sent for 85 sacks more."

Nathanielsz, in General Santos City to record the birthday celebration for his Main Event television show, said the gift-giving, started after lunch, should be concluded only to give way to the evening feast, highlight of the celebration that was started with a motorcade on Thursday.

## Rice, noodles, canned goods

Each villager got three kilos of rice, noodles, canned goods and a crisp P100 bill.

Pacquiao was originally scheduled to leave Jan. 5 to again link up with trainer Freddie Roach at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, but his wife felt the urgency for the world boxing celebrity to depart much earlier.

"I know his opponent, Manuel Marquez, has already been training hard," Nathanielsz quoted Mrs. Pacquiao as saying.

Pacquiao is slated for a rematch on Feb. 26 against Marquez, the WBA/IBF featherweight champ who salvaged a controversial split draw, after being downed three times, in their first fight in Las Vegas in May.

## He hasn't stopped training

Meanwhile, Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's local trainer and childhood friend, denied reports that the Ring Magazine featherweight champ has stopped training since arriving in his hometown.

"I've been with Manny here in GenSan and he's been running," said Fernandez in Filipino. "He hasn't stopped with his light conditioning."

Fernandez noted that Pacquiao fully realizes the importance of his fight against Marquez.

"He's still in good shape and he'll be ready in time for the Marquez fight," Fernandez explained. "I don't know why some people are saying he's been taking it easy."

Fernandez also clarified that Pacquiao, who last Saturday crushed Thailand's Fahsan 3K Battery in four rounds in Taguig City, will begin training at the Wild Card Gym in the US on Jan. 5.

There had been concern among his handlers that Pacquiao may want to remain in GenSan until after his wife's birthday on Jan. 11.

Roach had originally wanted Pacquiao to leave for the US the day after Christmas.

"It's not true that we're leaving on Jan. 10," Fernandez said. "Our manager (Rod Nazario) and (American trainer) Freddie Roach know that we'll be there on Jan. 5."

Fernandez made that clarification before Mrs. Pacquiao bared her sentiments to Nathanielsz.

According to Fernandez, Pacquiao continues to heed Roach's advice to "stay disciplined" through the birthday celebration and Christmas.

Pacquiao was also expected to seal a negotiated deal with Murad Muhammad, his promoter in the US, through business manager Rod Nazario.

## Big fights for big bucks

A win over Marquez would line up Pacquiao for fights expected to break past the P100-million peak.

However, the Mexican Marquez, described as a fitness freak, has already been training at an altitude of 10,000 feet in a bid to offset Pacquiao's tremendous edge in power.

Pacquiao is trying to develop a new weapon, the right cross, in preparation for Marquez.

# Japan shuts out China, seizes first finals berth; Blu Girls fail

PLAYING what its coach described as a good, beautiful game, Japan whitewashed defending champion China, 7-0, yesterday to reach the finals of the eighth Asian Women's softball tournament at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

The three-time champion Japanese drew an amazing performance from veteran and top hurler Yukiko Ueno, who fired a two-hitter and struck out seven in the victory that meant a place in the championship.

With the triumph on a hot, moonless night before a crowd of some 1,000, the Japanese will now meet the winner of the Chinese Taipei-China game for the one-game championship set at 3 o'clock today.

**GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Ballpark*)**
9 a.m.—Indonesia vs RP
11 a.m.—Chinese-Taipei vs China
1 p.m.—South Korea vs Indonesia or RP
3 p.m.—Japan vs Taipei or China

"They played good, beautiful game," said Japanese coach Ikawa Hidetomi, through an interpreter, while reserving his biggest praise for the 22-year-old Ueno.

While Ueno was making things really tough for the Chinese batters, her teammates were battering three enemy hurlers with 12 hits, including four in a three-run explosion right in the first inning.

The 5-foot-8 Ueno has a record of two perfect games against the same Chinese squads in two different tournaments.

Ueno achieved the first in a 3-0 win over China in the 2002 world championship and then did the same in their 1-0 win over eight innings in the bronze-medal game during the Athens Olympic Games.

Earlier, Chinese-Taipei emerged an easy 7-0 winner over North Korea as veteran S.L. Hua limited the opposition to one measly hit in a splendid showing at the mound while getting a torrid 11-hit support.

The Taiwanese and the Chinese will dispute the second finals spot at 11 a.m.

In an earlier game, South Korea blanked the Philippines, 7-0, giving the Blu Girls nothing to hope for but either fifth or sixth place in this tournament serving as the Asian qualifier for the 2006 world championship in Beijing.

The Blu Girls play Indonesia at 9 a.m. today, seeking a win to earn a chance to meet South Korea again for the fifth spot.

BLU GIRL Dione Macasu (left) stretches for the throw from second base as Kim Kyung Ka of South Korea makes a dash for first. Kim was ruled out. JESS YUSON

# In praise of Noli

SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

YOU MAY have been just too busy preparing for the holidays that's why, maybe, you missed a milestone in Philippine sports—basketball in particular—that hogged the headlines briefly recently.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala and BAP secretary general Graham Lim have just forged a partnership aimed at putting the country back on track for an envisioned resurgence in basketball. They had just signed a memorandum of agreement which, for all intents and purposes, put an end to all the bickering and animosities that pervaded the basketball landscape for quite a while.

To be sure, it was no fault of either of the two on why there had been enmity and disunity in the game. It was basically the handiwork of evil forces out to drive a wedge between the two main guys of Philippine basketball—all because of an agenda of scheming persons out to usurp power at the BAP. They are very identifiable but still, I won't dignify them by mentioning their names here. The decent men of the basketball world know who they are.

"I have been criticized by some quarters when I extended the hand of peace to Graham (Lim)," said Noli. "But when I did, I had only been guided by one thing: the deepest interest, the direction and development of Philippine basketball. I've been sent by the PBA board to talk to the BAP and, of course, for obvious reasons, I couldn't dictate on the BAP to send me a person who I can talk to. Graham happens to be only incidental in this business at hand but then, he is the BAP man to talk to and that was it. From the very start, I do not look at personalities, I only look at the association, the institution. And, whether we like it or not, the BAP is an institution, the duly recognized body by the Fiba, the world's governing body for basketball, operating in the Philippines. I don't talk to the BAP, to Graham, then our dream of regaining basketball supremacy in the region will just be that—a dream."

Some quarters have been questioning Graham Lim's citizenship but, for the record, there is not a single criminal case filed against him in any court related to his citizenship.

"Mr. Graham Lim may be controversial in that he is being pictured by some people as not the right person to deal with in the BAP. I brush these things aside simply because, as I said, the BAP has complete trust in him that's why he became the man that I had to deal with in forging the memorandum of agreement between the PBA and the BAP."

The most salient point in the eight-point agenda of the MOA is, "1. The selection, formation, training and maintenance of Philippine National Men's (Seniors) Basketball Team that will compete in elite international events enumerated hereunder shall be solely and exclusively vested in the PBA."

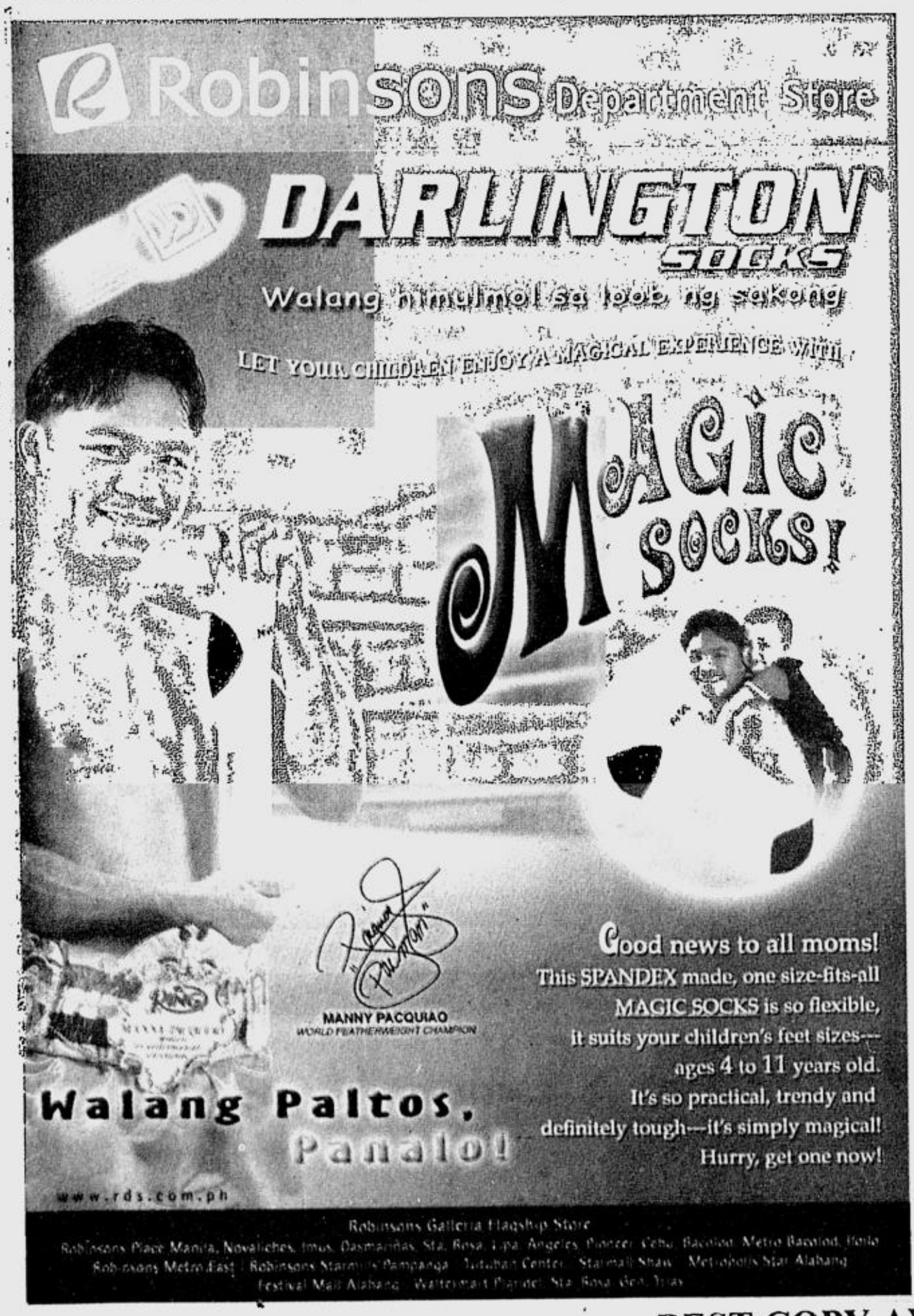
The elite events are Fiba-Asian Men's Championship, R. Williams Jones Cup and Fiba-Asia Champion Cup.

This feature is self-explanatory in that the PBA will take control of everything pertaining to the three major events, which will give the country a chance to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, not to mention the World Basketball Championship.

My question now that Noli and Graham have become one is, what happens now to those so-called basketball "leaders" who created noise after noise a while back in harping the line that a "basketball super body" will solve the ills of Philippine basketball?

I have one guess—either they've gone their separate ways after finally realizing the folly of their madness or they are busy plotting another twisted, if not wicked, idea in their crazy bid to grab the reins at the BAP.

I tell you, they are doomed and history will judge them unkindly.




## Gin Kings crush Barakos . . .

From page A25

clobbered Purefoods, 86-70, for its third straight victory. Both teams now have 8-9 records.

The scores:

First game

GINEBRA 107—Menk 26, Caguioa 20, Adducul 15, Seigle 14, Santos 11, Noble 11, Helterbrand 6, Dimaunahan 2, Wallkvist 2, Valenzuela 0, Salvacion 0, Ballesteros 0.

RED BULL 89—Torion 24, Villanueva 16, Tugade 11, Rodriguez 8, Agapito 8, Robinson 6, Bernardo 6, Bagulo 4, Asaytono 4, Alvarez 2, Lopez 0.

Quarters: 23-25, 44-45, 78-64, 107-89

Second game

ALASKA 86—Cortez 16, Allado 14, Cariaso 13, Cabkay 12, Thoss 11, Hugnatan 10, Hawkins 8, Duat 2.

PUREFOODS 70—Limpot 15, Yee 12, Castillo 10, Evangelista 9, Raymundo 8, Laure 7, Yap 6, Artadi 3, Espinosa 0, Simon 0, Realubit 0.

Quarters: 31-14, 48-32, 72-57, 86-70.

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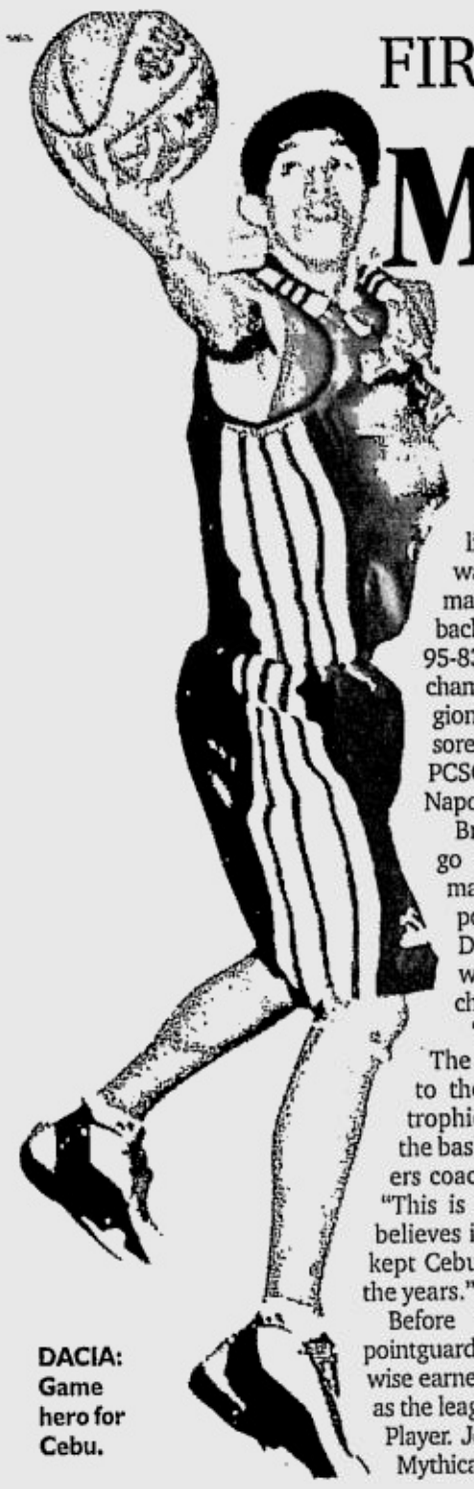

DACIA: Game hero for Cebu.

FIRST URBL CHAMPS

# M. Lhuillier cagers bag title

**CEBU CITY—The chance was there, the stage was set and M. Lhuillier-Cebu City took the perfect timing to etch another history in Philippine basketball.**

The Jewelers played like warriors in an all-out war as they dominated the match throughout to turn back the Ilocos Sur Snipers, 95-83, and emerge the very first champion of the United Regional Basketball League sponsored by adidas, Lactovitale, PCSO, Pagcor, STI and Napoleon VSOP Brandy.

Bruce Dacia and James Laygo delivered sterling performances, drilling in 34 and 27 points, respectively, while Danny Aying added 15 to wrap up the best-of-five championship series, 3-1.

"Everybody did their jobs. The title is a precious addition to the array of championship trophies in our three decades in the basketball scene," said Jewelers coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba. "This is for Michel Lhuillier who believes in the Cebuano talent and kept Cebu basketball alive through the years."

Before the match, M. Lhuillier pointguard Woodraw Enriquez likewise earned his place in URBL history as the league's first STI Most Valuable Player. Joining Enriquez in the STI Mythical Five were Dacia, center Jerome Barbosa of the Snipers and the Harbour Centre-Pampanga pair of shooting guard Ariel Garcia and power forward Billy Bansil.

Likewise, coach Alcoseba and Ilocos Sur Vice. Gov. DV Savellano handed over to Quezon team consultant Benny Brizuela their respective teams' contributions for the typhoon victims in Quezon and nearby provinces.

Dacia set the stage ablaze, unloading 14 of the Jewelers' 29 points in the opening period. Laygo took over in the second period banging in 12 points including three triples to wind up the first half with a 50-39 spread.

**The scores:**

**M. LHUILLIER 95**—Dacia 34, Laygo 27, Aying 15, Enriquez 5, Smith 4, Bat-og 4, Marata 4, Lumantas 2, Cañoneo 0, Rubi 0, de Guzman 0.

**ILOCOS SUR 83**—Barbosa 19, Sanders 17, Yu 11, Manigo 9, D Mendoza 9, Cardel 8, Hardin 5, Santa Cruz 5, Butel 0.

**Quarters**: 29-16, 50-39, 76-54, 95-83.

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# PSC transition very critical; Ramirez seen as 'new guy'

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain yesterday said the choice of his successor would be very critical even as commissioner Butch Ramirez was tipped to have suddenly grabbed the edge in the race for the top PSC post.

"This period is critical to the next chair considering that the PSC is tasked to handle the finances for the athletes' training and actual competitions for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, aside from the renovation of government-owned sports facilities that were tapped for the Games," Buhain said.

BUHAIN

RAMIREZ

Buhain said it's business as usual at the PSC, although his appointment as Games and Amusements Board chair has already been made public.

As this developed, reports about the next PSC chair continued to stir the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex with Ramirez deemed likely to be named as Buhain's successor.

"With Peping (Cojuangco) coming in as the POC president, the consideration (in naming the next PSC chair) would be the relations of POC and the PSC," said highly placed sources privy to the selection process in Malacañang.

Ramirez, who has served as PSC commissioner for five years already under Buhain and Butch Tuason, was also the "new guy" being considered by Malacañang which reportedly held back its decision to name Ateneo athletic director Jose "Junjun" Capistrano, the same sources said.

"Capistrano's name was there already," said the sources, "but after three days, nothing happened. Upon checking again, they were considering a new guy."

Ramirez, the soft-spoken academician from Davao, was not on the list of possible candidates until after he was asked by Malacañang to turn in his updated resumé, added the sources.

Yesterday, Buhain was confronted with a problem that might be submitted for his decision when he assumes office at the GAB.

Former national riders Victor Espiritu, Lloyd Lucien Reynante and Rhyan Taguilig appealed to Buhain the decision to bar them from the Third Tour Pilipinas next year during the Scoop sa Kamayan session.

Other than being barred from participating in the annual classic, members of the team that included Albert Primero, Ronald Gorrantes, Tomas Martinez, Alfie Catalan, Joel Calderon, Merculio Ramos and Bernard Luzon have also been removed from the national training pool preparing for next Southeast Asian Games.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

# FEU booters make Super Cup semis

FAR EASTERN University crushed Union FC, 11-0, recently to complete the Division I semifinal cast in the NCRFA Globe Handy Phone Super Cup football tournament.

Striker Kirk Magbalon sparkled for FEU with seven goals (16th, 25th, 32nd, 47th, 52nd, 78th and 79th). Rodelito Lorenzo struck in the 19th and 68th minutes while Chester Kit Barrientos and Raymund Buensuceso contributed one each to complete the rout.

The FEU booters finished second in Group B with two wins, one draw and one loss for seven points, five behind unbeaten Army which tallied 12 points.

FEU nipped UAAP champion Ateneo, 2-1, last Dec. 8 after holding last year's titlist Navy to a 3-3 draw.

Semifinal action in the tournament organized by the National Capital Region Football Association and sponsored by Globe Handy Phone will be held on Dec. 20 with Group A topnotcher Kaya FC playing FEU and Army facing UST, Group A runner-up.

In division 2, only Knights FC has clinched a semifinal slot for winning its three Group C games.

The remaining matches which should decide the other semifinal seats pit Nomads against Laos Today, Nomads against Onze Archers, Laos against Xavier-Lateo FC and Mapua-Lions against Manila-All Japan on Dec. 19.

Nomads, Laos, Onze Archers and Xavier-Lateo are vying in Group A, while Mapua-Lions and Manila-All Japan are bracketed in Group B, together with Claret.

# 3 Filipino pugs enter President's Cup finals

**BATAM, Indonesia—The three-man RP Alaxan FR Boxing Team moved into the finals with a solid three-for-three effort in the 20th President's Cup International Boxing Championships here.**

Pinweight Bill Vicera, light flyweight Godfrey Castro and flyweight Franklin Albia hammered out contrasting victories Wednesday night and assured RP of three silver medals in the 18-team, 15-nation annual world ranking tournament.

Castro, an Army enlisted man, got the RP juggernaut going with an easy 30-19 win over Toshiki Igarashi of Japan after which Vicera huffed and puffed before scoring a 22-16 decision over Sikham Vong Vakhoum of Laos.

Not to be left out, Albia toyed with Liu Shih Tung of Taiwan to come up with a 22-3 rout and complete the Filipino sweep of their semifinals bout.

The Filipinos, sent here by the Pacific Heights with support from the Philippine Sports Commission as part of the Amateur Boxing Association (ABAP) build-up program for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, were set to go for the golds Thursday night.

Albia was to fight A Rathnayake of Sri Lanka in the flyweight finals while Vicera and Castro were pitted against South Korean opponents.

"*Nagpapasalamat kami sa Diyos at narating naming lahat ang* finals," said coach Ronald Chavez.

"*Kung hindi sa tulong Niya at sa* Pacific Heights, *hindi kami makakarating dito at makakamtan ang malaking karangalang ito.*"

# Murrel, Pang survive PCA q'final rivals

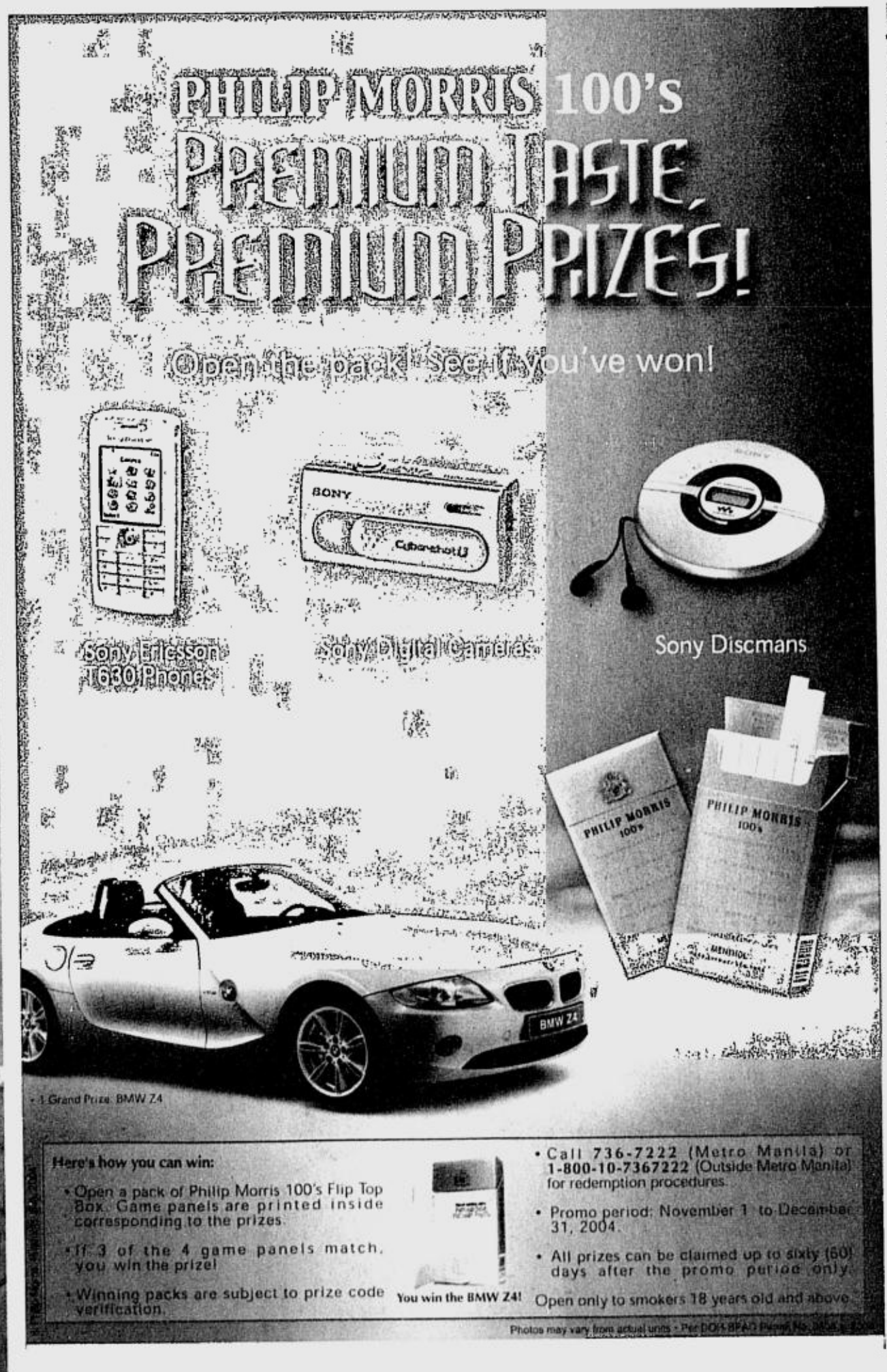
JONATHAN Murrell and Michelle Pang survived their tough quarterfinal matches yesterday to remain on course for top honors in the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) age-group tennis championships at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco.

Murrel, the top seed in the boys' 18 and under division, beat Johnwill Baldonado, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, while Pang, the second seed in the distaff side, overcame a sluggish start to beat Kristel Samala, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, in the event presented by Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar of Basilan.

Raymond Villarete joined Murrell in the semifinals via a 6-2, 6-2 win over Russel Arcilla Jr.

Ma. Angelica Ngo won over Danielle Ballare, 6-4, 6-0, and Julie Em Botor dumped Olivia Molhant, 6-1, 6-3, to advance in the girls' 18 and under group.

Christine Patrimonio, daughter of just-retired PBA star Alvin Patrimonio, also sustained her winning ways by beating Margaux Molhant, 6-1, 6-0.




## Firefly T'bird rules NCA 1st leg

FIREFLY Thunderbird 13, an entry of sportsman Jun Santiago, noted Rizal breeder Boy Jiao and Boy Velez, racked up seven remarkable victories Thursday night to capture the first leg of National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. In a climactic title fight, Thunderbird Firefly 13 routed the equally tough Binangonan Balbina of former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and Rizal Gov. Ito Yñares. Ranged against the favored entry of Cojuangco and Yñares, a two-time winner, the Sweater Roundhead of Firefly Thunderbird 13 displayed impressive speed and cutting accuracy to win the fight. The entries of popular cocker Patrick Antonio and the Jimafer group also settled for runner-up honors with 6.5 points apiece. Meanwhile, the prestigious 2005 World Slasher Cup 8-Cock Derby slated Jan. 18, 20 and 22 gets a big boost with the arrival yesterday of renowned US breeder Rogert Roberts of Georgia who will team up with Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta. In a related development, Ray Alexander of Alabama sent word that he is sending super roosters for the world cockfest.

## Cash Premyo on at Roligon

NO less than 82 fights await derby fans today at Roligon Mega Cockpit when the eighth edition of the Cash Premyo derby series gets under way at 4 p.m. Submission of weights is set from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. with the weight limit set at 1.800 to 2.400 kilograms. The guaranteed cash prize is P250,000 with the entry fee and minimum bet pegged at P5,500 and P3,3000, respectively. Hosted by Abraham Bernales and Tiling Capltan, the derby stakes P20,000 for the champion handler with the top gaffer getting P10,000. The fastest-kill winner in his last fight pockets P20,000, while the second placer receives P10,000.

Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

# Agojo pips T'pinco after big fightback; Deen makes it 3

**CEBU—In a showdown between two young national players, Jayvie Agojo rallied from five strokes down in regulation play then defeated Anya Tanpinco in a sudden-death playoff yesterday to clinch the ladies' Class A crown in the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Cebu Country Club here.**

And Eric Deen was in no mood to go through the same drama, coasting to a four-shot victory in the 72-hole men's championship division to become the first player in the Samsung Tour to win three consecutive titles.

Facing an almost insurmountable deficit on the first tee, the 18-year-old Agojo proved her claim to being the country's finest female amateur by matching par 72 to wipe out the five-shot lead Tanpinco built on Day 1.

Both wound up with similar 152 totals for 36 holes.

Agojo, who struggled to an 80 on Thursday, also proved her 72 yesterday was no fluke by parring the first extra hole, the par-4 No. 1.

It was Bacolod bet Tanpinco who wilted under pressure. She muffed a tying par putt from seven feet.

"This win is special for me since it's the first time I've won in a playoff after losing the first three I played in," said Agojo, who missed clinching the title outright when she three-putted the 18th.

It was also the second straight crown for Agojo who won the Manila Ladies amateur plum only last month at Wack Wack. With the win, she advanced to the national finals of the event slated Feb. 8-11 also at Wack Wack.

Deen slumped to his worst round in four days—a three-over 75—but no one came close to threatening his three-peat bid in the event also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, C-Lium Fiber, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport and Rogin-E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Deen finished with a 295 total, four shots in front of club rival Carl Almario who closed out with a similar 75.

Deen thus joined a star-studded lineup of qualifiers for the grand finals that includes reigning national amateur champion Jun Bernis, Thailand Open winner Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron, Boyet Saragoza, Raymund Sangil and South Korean Kim Chang-hoi.

The Tour takes a long break to give way to the Samsung Interscholastics on Jan. 22-24 at the Tagaytay Midlands and Tagaytay Highlands course.

JAYVIE Agojo shows fine form. RUDY ESPERAS

## SPORTSWATCH

### Extreme stunt challenge

INSPIRED by the success of the recent Samsung AXN Challenge, AXN is launching the first extreme stunt challenge for local enthusiasts. Dubbed the Enervon AXN Xtreme, the event is a made-for-TV event in which participants face off in a series of challenges that will test their mind, body and spirit under extreme conditions. AXN is the action-adventure cable satellite TV channel in Asia. To qualify, interested participants first have to go through a qualification round set tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The eliminations starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. The Enervon AXN Xtreme is the first major original TV production in the Philippines undertaken by the cable channel. "This is going to be the biggest programming and production effort ever undertaken by AXN in the Philippines," said Gregory Ho, AXN's vice president for marketing and creative services. For details, log on to AXN www.axn-asia.com. The subsequent broadcast of the original production will premiere Asia-wide on AXN in February next year.

### Castañares' mystery man

CEBU—Boxing promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani has revealed to the media here that newly crowned World Boxing Foundation junior welter king Dindo "Diesel" Castañares received a great deal of help from a New Zealander in his fourth-round stoppage of Colombian Guillermo Pantera Mosquera last Dec. 11 in Auckland, New Zealand. Gello-ani, who graced the SCOOP Forum here yesterday with the Tony Aldeguer-managed Castañares, indicated that if not for the mystery man he calls "Warren," the new champ would have been kept at the dark as to Mosquera's fighting style and dirty tactics. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

### Nanoy Ilusorio Cup

BAGUIO CITY—The 5th Nanoy Ilusorio Cup Invitational Golf Tournament is set Dec. 30 at the par 61, Baguio Country Club (BCC) layout. The event is a special fund-drive project by the club members aimed at providing assistance to charitable institutions. The event, conceived by the late chairman for life and president emeritus lawyer Potenciano Ilusorio, is exclusive to BCC members and their dependents on a first-come, first-served basis. Entry fees are—BCC member P700 and P2,000 guest player. Deadline for registration is noon of Dec. 28.

### Galvan heads chess entries

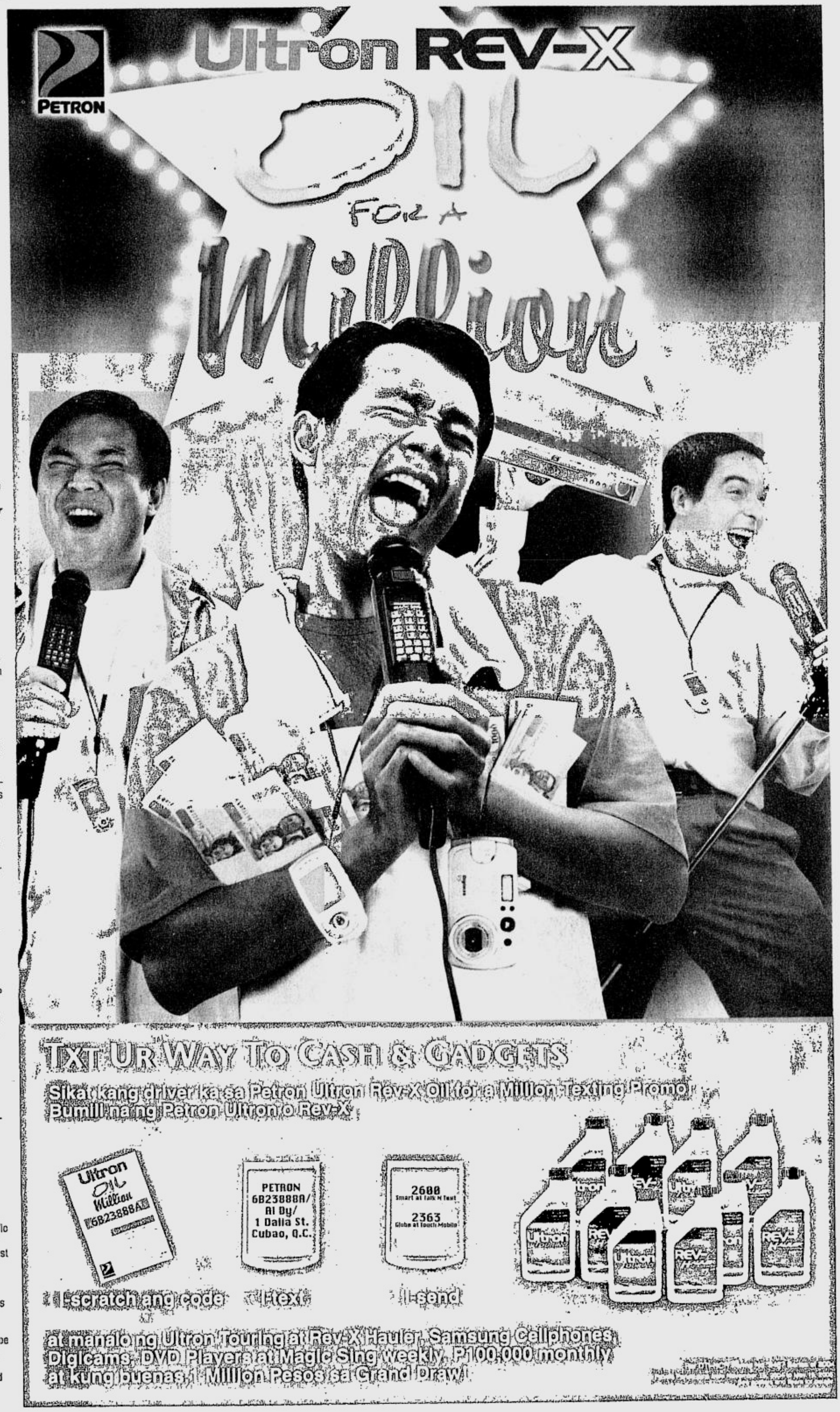
JESUS Galvan, DepEd assistant secretary, leads the early entries in the MCC Executive Category I non-master active chess tournament which kicks off at 1 p.m. today, at the J&F Divino Bldg. at 967 Aurora Blvd. near LRT 2 Anonas Station in Quezon City. The event is open to businessmen, executives in private and public firms, military officers with rank not lower than a major and professionals with more than three years of practice. Xerox copies of business registration and latest ITR, company or PRC ID are required to be submitted upon registration. Interested parties must register before 1 p.m. or may call MCC at 435-8412 or 0916-8521069.

### USC tops SBP tourney

DAVAO CITY—Cebu's University of San Carlos emerged as the country's top SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines) team while Ateneo de Manila kept the Passerelle title in the recent Milo BEST national basketball finals at the Holy Cross gym here. The USC boys overcame a 25-34 halftime deficit to nip Ateneo de Manila, 57-54, in the SBP finals. Ateneo de Manila came back with a vengeance in the Passerelle division by crushing Ateneo de Davao, 70-55. USC's Joemari Jagupit and ADM's Alec Rivera were named SBP and Passerelle most valuable players, respectively. USC and Ateneo de Manila won the sportsmanship award in the SBP and Passerelle divisions, respectively. Ateneo de Zamboanga rapped St. Scholastica Academy, 48-37, to finish third in SBP. Ateneo de Iloilo crushed St. Louis University, 77-56, to claim third spot in the Passerelle competition.

### Tee Ball series begins

EIGHT barangay teams see action today and tomorrow when the First Marikina Tee Ball Interbarangay Championship gets underway at the Barangka baseball ground in Marikina City. Organized by the City of Marikina through Councilor Vic Sabiniano and the Marikina Youth Baseball-Softball Foundation (MYBSF), the tournament will host 100 boys and girls aged 5-8 years old. Baseball clubs from the barangays of Jesus dela Peña, Barangka, Sto. Niño, San Roque, Concepcion, Manalday and Nangka vie for honors and trophies in the two-day tournament. MYBSF president Ricky Florencio said rubberized baseball, foam-covered bats and rubberized tee-ball stands will be used in the tournament. The Philippine Beverage Partners under the Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc. provides 8-O' Clock fruit drinks and Earth & Sky iced tea for the players during the games. Jollibee Bayan-Marikina also supports the league.



PARAGUA: Chinese GM next

# Paragua nears Singapore chess crown

**Individual Standings after round 8:**
6.5—Paragua; 6.0—Wu Wenjin, Susanto Megaranto (Indonesia); 5.5—Xu Jun, Zhang Pengxiang, Wang Rui; 5.0—Yu Shaoteng, Nathanael Situru, Syarif Mahmud, Siyuan Shen (China); 4.5—Sadorra (RP)

FILIPINO GM-candidate Mark Paragua beat IM Nathanael Situru of Indonesia in the eighth round Thursday night to inch closer to the 2004 Singapore Masters International Open Chess Championships title at the Tao Nan School, Marine Crescent District in Singapore.

The 20-year-old Paragua, who prevailed in 37 moves of a Modern Benoni, boosted his total to 6.5 points on six wins, one draw, one loss, and with only one round left is on the threshold of claiming the $3,000 top purse.

Blocking Paragua's path is GM Zhang Pengxiang of China, who bested IM Swayangsu Satyapragyan of India in the eighth round to improve to 5.5 points.

"Let's hope Mark wins in the last round," said Filway Marketings Inc. CEO/president Hector Tagaysay, Paragua's longtime benefactor who flew in to watch Paragua's game.

Tied for second to third places are GM Wu Wenjin, Paragua's lone conqueror, and GM Susanto Megaranto of Indonesia after winning their respective matches and climbing to 6.0 points.

Wu nipped IM Sadikin Irwanto after 43 moves of Ruy Lopez while Megaranto took the scalp of countryman FM Tirto in 49 moves of a Center Counter Game.

Another Filipino entry in the 48-man field, FM Julio Catalino Sadorra, bowed to IM Wang Rui of China in 27 moves of Reti Opening and got stuck at 4.5 points.

In the Challengers Open, National Chess Federation of the Philippines director Wilfredo Abalos and Rosulo Cabusora whipped Chang Cheng-Hwee and Huang Ching-Chi, respectively, to score 5.5 points each with one round to go.

RP five-time executive grand champion Dr. Jenny Mayor, however, suffered his second straight loss at the hands of Joni to remain at 5.0 points.

In the accompanying Asian Youth Chess Championships, Jedara Docena of Bohol bowed to Pon S Krithikha of India in 39 moves of French Defense-Winawer Variation to stay at 6.0 points and dampen her chances for the gold medal in the girls' 12-and-under class. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

# Pistons smother James, Cavaliers

## *Rising Bulls trip slumping Bucks*

**NEW YORK—Richard Hamilton posted 21 points to propel the Detroit Pistons to an 81-69 triumph over the Cleveland Cavaliers at Auburn Hills, Michigan, Thursday.**

The defending NBA champion Pistons erased a 10-point deficit when they outscored the Cavaliers, 21-6, in the third quarter.

Cleveland's LeBron James was held in check for most of the night. He had 11 points on 4-for-21 shooting, although he did notch eight rebounds and seven assists.

In his previous game against the Pistons in Cleveland on Nov. 28, James amassed a career-high 43 points in a 92-76 victory for the Cavs.

This time around the Pistons smothered him and the 14-9 Cavaliers, who slipped to 5-8 on the road.

Chauncey Billups added 16 points for the Pistons while Rasheed Wallace had 13 and Ben Wallace contributed 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Drew Gooden led the Cavaliers with 18 points. Jeff McInnis added 14 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas 12.

Detroit's second straight win helped the team move two games over .500 at 12-10.

In Chicago, Kirk Hinrich registered 28 points as the Bulls won for the fourth time in six outings, an 85-77 decision over the slumping Milwaukee Bucks.

Hinrich scored nine of his points during a 15-0 run in the fourth quarter that allowed the Bulls to pull away from the Bucks, who lost for the third successive game and 13th out of 16.

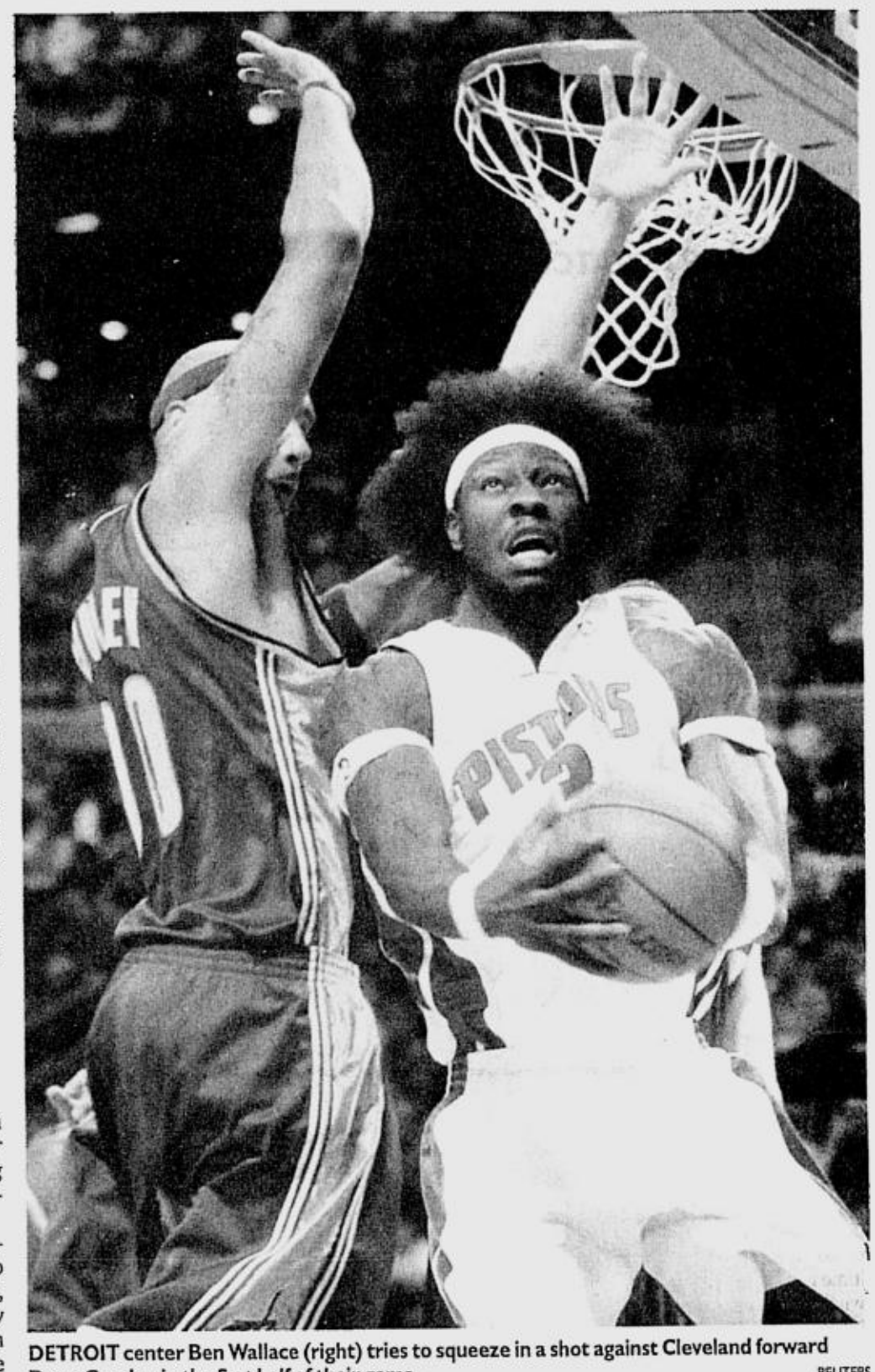
Eddy Curry added 18 points for the Bulls while Tyson Chandler had a career-high seven blocked shots, 10 rebounds and six points. Chicago (6-15) is 6-6 since losing nine straight to open the season.

Michael Redd picked up 22 points for the Bucks (6-14) and Desmond Mason claimed 15.

In Sacramento, Kobe Bryant piled up 31 points and 12 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers romped past the Kings, 115-99.

Lamar Odom added 22 points for the Lakers, who blew open the game by outscoring the Kings 37-22 in the third quarter.

Bobby Jackson had 20 points and eight rebounds for Sacramento and Chris Webber also had 20 points. *Reuters*



DETROIT center Ben Wallace (right) tries to squeeze in a shot against Cleveland forward Drew Gooden in the first half of their game. REUTERS

# UAAP-RP makes presence felt

TEAM UAAP-Philippines went home from Surabaya, Indonesia, Monday night with 10 gold, nine silver and 11 bronze medals and a reputation as a vaunted team to reckon with in the Asean University Games.

"This is one lean and mean team we, on behalf of the UAAP board, are very proud of," said De La Salle's Daniel Jose, president of the UAAP Season 67.

Team UAAP-Philippines, a pure swimming team, did not only surpass the three golds another team copped in the 11th edition in 2002 the country hosted. It finished strongly against nine other Asean teams who sent more athletes and competed in most of the 10 disciplines on the schedule.

Malaysia also had 10 gold medals but because it had more athletes in other disciplines, bagged more silvers (24) and more bronzes (24) for third place.

Benjie Uy of De La Salle clinched two more gold medals—200 individual medley and 50 back—and UP's Luica Dacanay added the 100 butterfly to her collection on the final day of swimming competitions Saturday as Team UAAP-Philippines wound up fourth overall.

The team had Ateneo's Jose Capistrano Jr. as head of delegation and is also composed of swimmers Timmy Chua, Raphael Evan Grabador and Jeffrey James Laguitao of UP, Regina Fatima Amago of UST and Sherlynne Nicole Santiago of Ateneo.

# Rosales to grace Young Guns awards rites

LPGA star Jenny Rosales will personally award the trophies to the division champions in the Young Guns 2004 junior golf championships slated Dec. 21-22 at the challenging Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

Rosales, here on vacation after a spectacular season in the LPGA when she won the Chick Fil-A championship, has already included the Young Guns in her busy itinerary according to event organizer Luigi Tabuena.

"I'm sure the kids are excited to see her since they've been following her campaign in the LPGA. Part of the privilege of being a Young Guns champion this year will be receiving a trophy from the country's golfing star," Tabuena said.

The tourney featuring players 12 years and below will be going international in its third season with confirmed entries from Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau, Korea, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada and the United States.

Supporting the event as sponsors are the International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), Smart Kids, Gatorade, Absolute Mineral Water, Golf Depot through Joey Mendoza, Egay San Luis, Provil, Share Exchange and Manila Southwoods. Bellevue in Alabang is the official hotel.

Organizers are requiring all confirmed entries to personally register at the Bellevue Hotel from 12 noon to 5 p.m. tomorrow, Dec. 19, where they will receive their giveaways, final instructions on the conditions of play and tee times.

Schedule for the official practice round on Dec. 20 will be made on a pre-registered basis. Players need to call up the event secretariat for a tee-time which will be strictly followed due to the big number of entries. Inquiries can also be made at 8505870-71.

Aside from crystal trophies for the top three finishers in each class, participants will get the chance to win attractive raffle prizes. Cellular phones, digital cameras, Game Boy and X Box units and many more will be raffled off.

The 54-hole competition is patterned after the annual US Kids World Championship in Williamsburg, Virginia, with competitions in six different age divisions.

# *Former Davis Cupper gets golf Tour card*

MELBOURNE, Australia—If former Australian Davis Cup player Scott Draper has an early exit from next month's Australian Open tennis championships, he can always put away his racket and pull out the golf clubs.

Draper, who has played off a golf handicap of plus 1 for the past 18 months, finished 12th in a field of 80 on Friday and was one of 37 golfers to gain his playing card for the Australasian PGA golf tour for 2005.

He shot a 1-over-par 73 to finish at 289, one over par at Melbourne's Peninsula Golf Club.

The Heineken Classic golf tournament at Royal Melbourne follows the Australian Open tennis tournament in January and early February of next year—the Australian Open begins Jan. 17 and the Heineken Classic on Feb. 3.

Although Draper, 30, will have exempt status on the secondary Von Nida tour and some Australasian tour events, he will need a sponsor's invitation to get into the Heineken, a joint event with the European PGA tour.

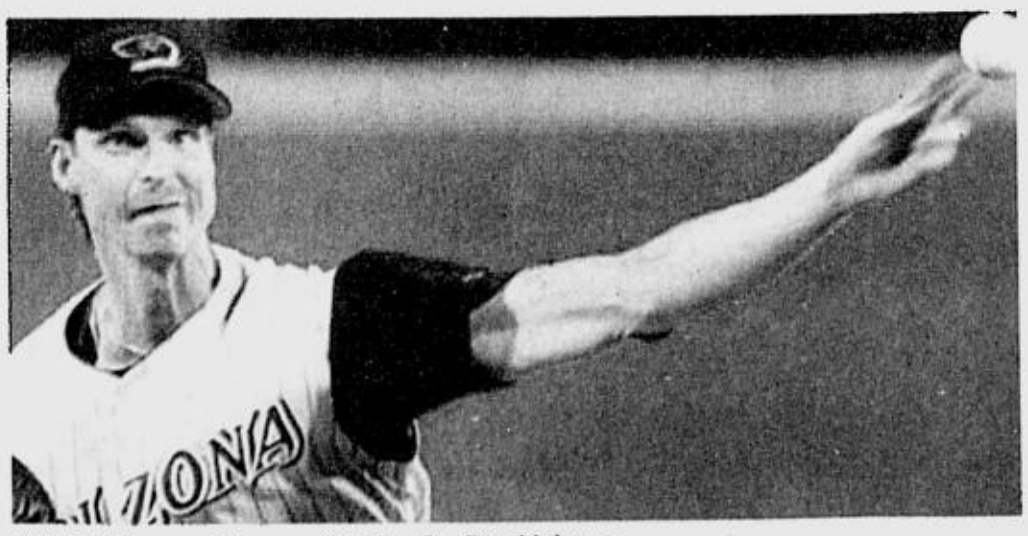
Draper has not decided how many golf and tennis tournaments he will be able to play. But a persistent knee injury means golf will likely get the nod.

"I still love tennis but it's frustrating when your body won't do what you want it to do," Draper said Friday.

"I'll give them both a try and if I have to give one the flick it will probably be the tennis."

Draper said he may also try to gain a players' card for the Asian golf circuit.

Nick Flanagan of Australia, the 2003 US Amateur champion, had a shaky finish but was among the those to get his card. Flanagan shot a final-round 78 to finish at 4-over after earlier rounds of 72-70-72. *AP*



RANDY Johnson will soon call Yankee Stadium his home.

# Yankees near 'Big Unit' acquisition

SAN FRANCISCO—On a day of big movement in baseball, the New York Yankees are on the verge of claiming the biggest prize of all.

The Yankees closed in on completing a blockbuster three-team trade that would send pitching ace Randy Johnson to New York, pitcher Javier Vazquez to the Los Angeles Dodgers and first baseman Shawn Green to the Arizona Diamondbacks, a source told The Associated Press.

"It is going to happen," a source familiar with the negotiations said on the condition of anonymity.

Earlier Thursday, the Atlanta Braves made another huge pitch for success, getting pitcher Tim Hudson in a trade from Oakland, and the Seattle Mariners signed another slugger, All-Star third baseman Adrian Beltre.

After blowing a 3-0 lead in the American League championship series to Boston last season, the Yankees set out in the offseason to upgrade their starting pitching. They are close to finalizing contracts with free-agent pitchers Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright, but Johnson, known as the Big Unit, is the player they coveted most to match up against the Red Sox and his former teammate, Curt Schilling.

The five-time Cy Young Award winner is in the final year of a contract that will pay him $16 million next season. He has a no-trade clause and it was unclear if the Yankees had to agree to extend his contract to make the deal go through.

Johnson, 41, wanted out of Arizona so he could pitch with a contender. He went 16-14 with a 2.60 ERA and 290 strikeouts last season for the Diamondbacks, who finished 51-111. Johnson has 246 career wins and is third all-time with 4,161 career strikeouts.

None of the teams would confirm the deal.

"We're still in conversations with a lot of different clubs about a lot of different possibilities," Dodgers general manager Paul DePodesta said. *AP*

# PFF-Red Ribbon football on

THE PFF-RED Ribbon Football Festival kicks off tomorrow at the Ateneo de Manila University grounds in Katipunan, Quezon City.

A dozen provincial champions are coming to compete with Metro Manila teams in a first-of-its-kind event for kids 13 and below.

The festival will also serve as a talent search for players to the Philippine under-14 team that will compete in Asean and Asian competitions next year.

Headlining the affair is the 2:30 p.m. championship match of the 2004 Red Ribbon Football Fiesta featuring reigning U-14 champions Ateneo de Manila and Southridge School. Both schools were undefeated in the elimination round, and scored convincing semifinal wins over Cheng Hua and Colegio San Agustin, respectively.

The PFF-Red Ribbon Football Festival is backed by the Red Ribbon Bakeshop, the LEAD Institute For Sport and the Philippine Football Federation and supported by Absolute Distilled Water, Nestea, Scala Packaging, television's Soccer Showdown and PFF partner-sponsors like Aboitiz, adidas, Petron, SuperFerry and the Philippine Sports Commission.

# St. Francis cagers make NCRAA q'finals

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Group A | | |
| EAC | 6 | 0 |
| CDSL | 6 | 1 |
| St. Francis | 5 | 2 |
| PUP | 4 | 3 |
| La Salle | 2 | 4 |
| Olivarez | 2 | 4 |
| FEATI | 1 | 5 |
| CCM | 0 | 7 |

THE ST. FRANCIS Doves started out strong and outplayed City Colleges of Manila, 66-44, yesterday in the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo gym on Taft Avenue, Manila.

The absence of injured skipper Jeffrey Mella did not tell on the Doves, who went on to post their fifth win in seven matches in Group A.

With the victory, the Doves dragged the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Maroons into the quarterfinals and joined early qualifiers Emilio Aguinaldo College and Colegio de San Lorenzo.

The Maroons lost their last game in the eliminations to the CDSL Griffins, 71-74.

In the women's side, Kristine Alon-Alon shot 21 points for La Salle-Manila as it demolished Emilio Aguinaldo College, 89-23, to finish the eliminations with a 6-1 slate.

Alon-Alon had seven points in the first 10 minutes as the Lady Archers took control, 22-7.

In Group B, Rizal Technological University downed Philippine School of Business Administration, 66-61; Philippine Maritime Institute overwhelmed AMA Computer College, 80-49; and host PATTS routed San Beda-Alabang, 88-66.

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| I Love Rock and Roll | rocknroll | Sometimes | sometimesirun |
| Do Somethin' | dosomethin | Lucky | lucky |
| Oops! I Did It Again | oopsidid | Outrageous | outrageous |
| Stronger | stronger | My Prerogative | myprerogative |
| Everytime | everytime | | |

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| RA010 | Fallen / Sarah Maclachlan |
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| RA011 | Fallin' / Alicia Keys |
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| RA014 | Hey Yah! / Outkast |
| RA028 | Quit Playing Games (With My Heart) / Backstreet Boys |
| RA018 | Ignition / R. Kelly |
| RA035 | Thoia Thoing / R. Kelly |
| RA038 | The Way You Move / Outkast |
| RA029 | Rock Your Body / Justin Timberlake |
| RA030 | Señorita / Justin Timberlake |
| RA021 | I'm With You / Avril Lavigne |

| CODE | SONG TITLE / ARTIST |
|---|---|
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| RA033 | Sk8er Boi / Avril Lavigne |
| RA015 | Harder To Breathe / Maroon 5 |
| RA023 | It's Gonna Be Me / N'Sync |
| RA024 | Last To Know / Pink |
| RA041 | You Don't Know My Name / Alicia Keys |
| RA043 | You're A God / Vertical Horizon |
| RA009 | Everything You Want / Vertical Horizon |
| RA157 | Christmas Time / Backstreet Boys |
| RA158 | Sleigh Ride / TLC |
| RA003 | Bye Bye Bye / N'Sync |
| RA016 | I Believe I Can Fly / R. Kelly |
| RA046 | World On Fire / Sarah Maclachlan |
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# SATURDAY special

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Mabigayang Pasko!!
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# FPJ scores his biggest box-office hit

By Boots Anson Roa

ENDLESS streams of people form kilometric lines traversing Quezon ave. and its arteries. They all lead to Sto. Domingo Church, some of them originating from as far north as Ilocos and down south in Muslim Mindanao.

They emerge from high-end vehicles, taxicabs, buses, jeepneys, tricycles and even *kalesas*.

They wear myriad expressions on their faces—anguish, pain, sorrow, frustration, anger, pity, denial, curiosity, bewilderment. But love, respect and the intense desire to bestow honor on a beloved icon are clearly emblazoned on their faces.

## First-name basis

Characteristic of the public who lays claim to its movie idols, they all feel familiar enough to refer to him on a first-name basis—not as Fernando Poe Jr., nor Ronald Allan Poe, but as FPJ, Fernando, Ronnie, or even the intimate "Ron."

The unparalleled crowds, the multitude of placards and signs of endearment, the snarled traffic, the heightened local and international media coverage, the growing coterie of friends with endless stories to tell, the closet supporters and even detractors who earlier opted for distance but who now offer encomiums to his virtues and attributes—these are all testaments to the phenomenal impact of FPJ's demise last Dec. 14 on a beleaguered, disturbed and divided nation.

Through his failed bid for the presidency—warranted by 3,000,000 signatures and appeals— he tried to unite a distraught citizenry in a manner unbeknownst to the traditional politician.

He talked and meant peace, and offered genuine public service. He was rebuffed, maligned, even ridiculed. In death, he has proved to be the catalyst for social change and unity that every well-meaning public figure has aspired to be.

## Indelible mark

The politician, FPJ will now never be. He stands to be remembered, however, as a statesman of a different ilk. But it is FPJ, the actor and the man, who will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark in the nation's memory.

No apologies for the metaphor—he used it a lot as a storyteller, scriptwriter and undaunted campaign speaker—but, in his untimely death, Fernando Poe Jr. has scored his biggest hit in his 50 years in the movies, where he started at age 15 with "Anak ni Palaris."

From all indications, it will enjoy the longest run in Philippine film history and will break all-time box office records. And the Filipino citizenry will be the better for it.

While FPJ's widow, the quietly formidable Susan Roces, and his family shun political talk these days, external but nevertheless relevant forces seem to fall into place, perhaps moved by an unseen Hand—the same Hand whose guidance Ronnie constantly invoked .

Pursuits need to be sustained, principles upheld, unfulfilled dreams visualized, and the fruits of his endeavors justly shared.

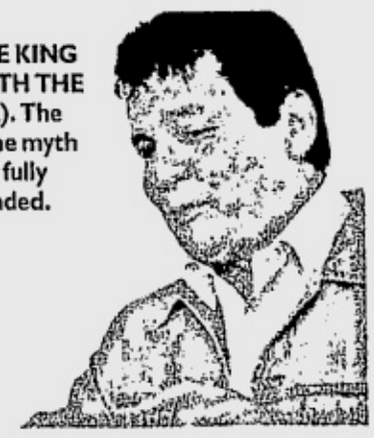
Ronnie, having already played his part in the role of a lifetime, imparts these to the national consciousness, while he, ironically, is no longer with us.

For Susan, his family and believers, this is an immense order. But we have no doubt it will be heeded in God's own time.

As he lies in state at Sto. Domingo, "at his handsomest ever," in Susan's words, Ronnie affords his multitude of followers one final witnessing of the legend, the hero and the myth— in his death, now fully transcended.

It is no coincidence that the biblical passage ascribed to Dec. 14, Ronnie's day of departure, reads:

*"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."* 2 Timothy 4:7



THE MOVIE KING (RIGHT, WITH THE AUTHOR). The hero and the myth are now fully transcended.

POE AND ANSON-ROA. Mr. and Ms RP Movies in 1974.

# Hollywood loses $718M to piracy in Asia

BANGKOK—Rampant movie piracy in the Asia-Pacific region cost western film producers more than $718 million in lost revenue in 2003, up from $574 million in 2000, the Motion Picture Association (MPA) said recently.

MPA, representing seven major Hollywood studios, said in a statement the number of pirated DVDs seized at the initiative of the group in 14 Asia-Pacific countries and Hong Kong surged to more than 16 million in 2003 from zero in 1998.

## Confiscated

About 84 percent of the pirate optical discs seized globally last year were confiscated in the region, along with 75 percent of pirated DVDs seized worldwide, MPA Regional Director Michael Ellis told reporters.

The MPA listed varying movie piracy rates

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- 2 PASIYAM
- 3 HAROLD & KUMAR
- 4 HONEY

**G4** (Glorietta 4)
- 1 THE POLAR EXPRESS
- 2 BIRTH
- THX 3 (Guaranteed seats) BRIDGET JONES: 1 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10 30
- 4 2046
- 5 SHREK 2
- 6 NATIONAL TREASURE
- 7 BAD SANTA

**GB1** (Greenbelt 1)
- 1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 12 20, 2 40, 5 00, 7 20, 9.40
- 2 BAD SANTA 11 20, 1 25, 3 30, 5 35, 7 40, 9:45

**GB3** (Greenbelt 3)
- THX 1 (Guaranteed seats) BRIDGET JONES 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20
- THX 2 (Guaranteed seats) BAD SANTA 12 45, 2 50, 4 55, 7 00, 9 05, 11.10
- 3 (Guaranteed seats) HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 1 30, 3 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30
- 4 (Guaranteed seats) BIRTH 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30
- 5 (Guaranteed seats) NATIONAL TREASURE 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30

**ACC** (Ayala Center Cebu)
- 1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
- 2 PASIYAM
- 3 OUT OF REACH
- 4 TAXI
- 5 HIGHWAYMEN

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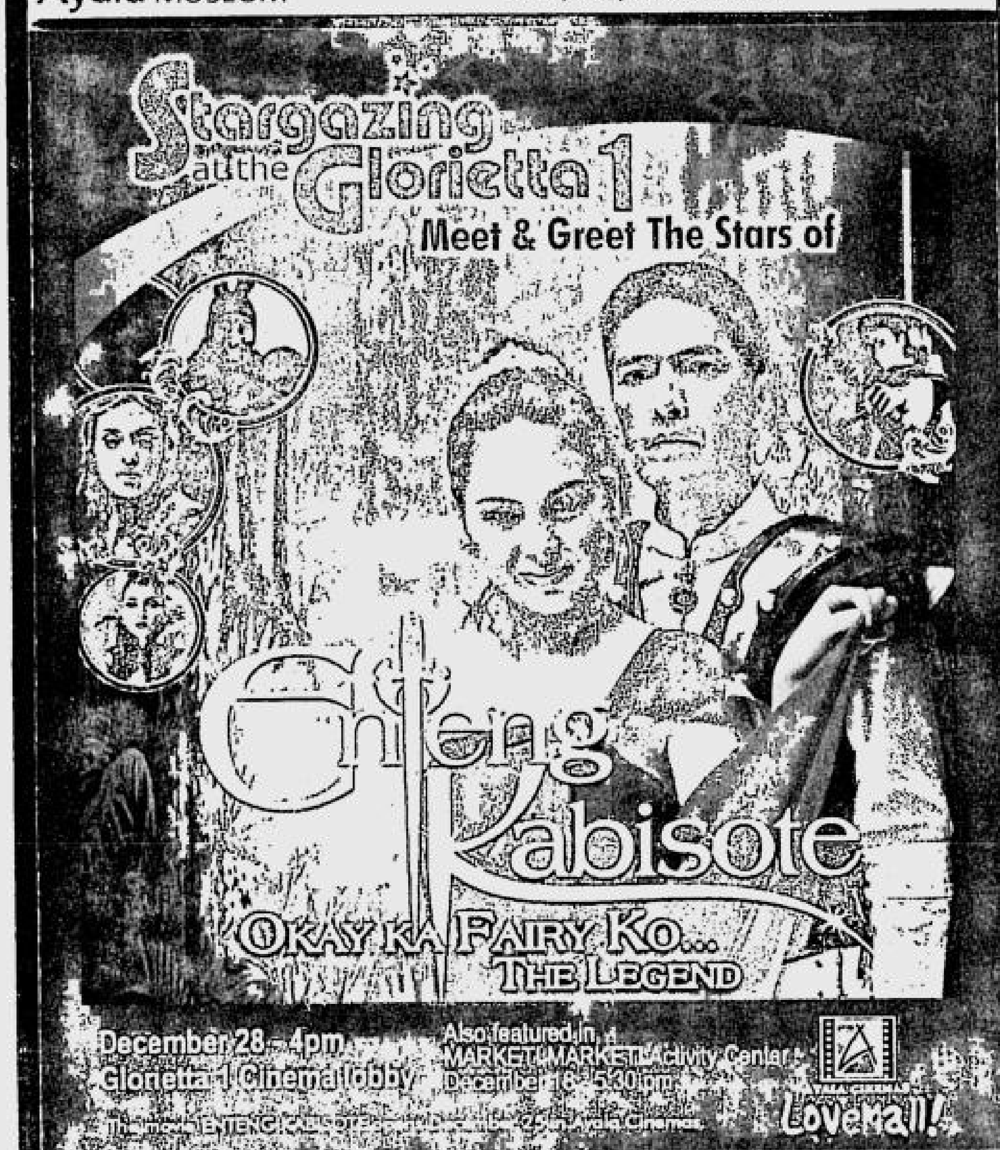

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**PACINO.** Plays Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice."

# Al Pacino sets his sights on King Lear, Macbeth

NEW YORK—After years of gangsters, villains and hard men with a heart, Al Pacino has come back to Shakespeare and, after playing Jewish moneylender Shylock, he has his sights set on King Lear and Macbeth.

"Learning it in school was a bit of a bore," Pacino admitted to reporters in New York, where he was promoting his new movie, "The Merchant of Venice," in which he plays Shylock.

Nonetheless Pacino, 64, best known for playing Michael Corleone in "The Godfather" (1972), says he did get hooked on the bard at school.

### Moral complexities

"Some actors have an appetite for it, some actors don't," he said. "It's just what rings your bell." He said "The Merchant of Venice" may be difficult for audiences given the moral complexities, particularly his character who loans a fortune on condition that he receives a pound of the borrower's flesh if the loan is not repaid.

"I've always found a way to present Shakespeare more entertaining and relevant," he said, recalling his 1996 documentary, "Looking for Richard," about Shakespeare's "Richard III," as the project he has been most passionate about in recent years.

### Sinner

The Oscar winner says he sees Shylock, who endures anti-Semitic insults, is spat on in the street and sees his daughter elope with a Christian nobleman, as more sinned against than sinner.

Asked about future plans for more Shakespeare, Pacino said he had discussed a couple of movies—"King Lear," the tragedy of a father and his three daughters, and "the Scottish play," an actor's superstitious reference to "Macbeth."

But, Pacino plays down suggestions he is about to become some sort of ambassador for Shakespeare in modern America.

"I like him the way other people do. I love him and his work, but I'm not here to represent Shakespeare to the world," he said. "He doesn't need me, he doesn't need anybody. He's going to do fine." *Reuters*


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## Hollywood

From page A2-1

in the region, ranging from eight percent in Australia to 100 percent in Vietnam.

Ellis said China's 95 percent piracy rate in 2003, up from 88 percent two years earlier, was not so much a product of its lack of suppression of the illegal activity as from its policy of restricting the number of foreign movies screened.

### Foreign films

"China only allows 20 foreign films to be shown annually in the country, and last year, 15 of them were Hollywood movies," he said.

MPA members lost an estimated $178 million of potential revenue in China and

HOLLYWOOD/ A2-4

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Glamorous Jackie

SMART
Simply Amazing!

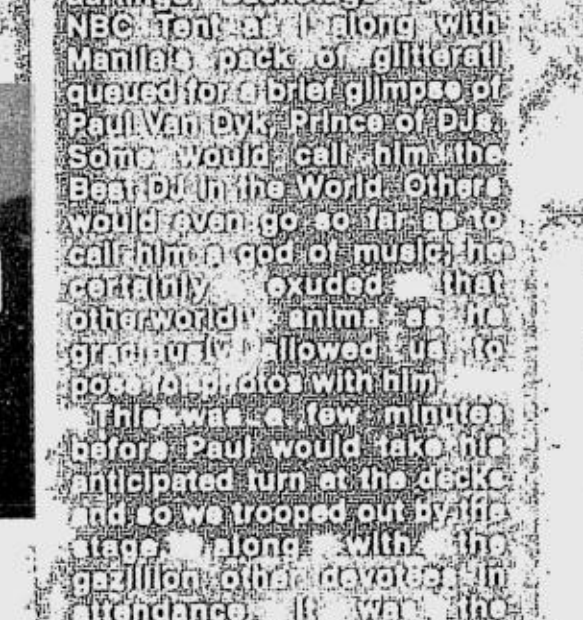
It was a mad scene really darlings, backstage in the NBC Tent at Tiglong with Manila's pack of glitterati queued for a brief glimpse of Paul Van Dyk, Prince of DJs. Some would call him the Best DJ in the World. Others would even go so far as to call him a god of music; he certainly exuded that otherworldly anima as he graciously allowed us to pose for photos with him.

This was a few minutes before Paul would take his anticipated turn at the decks and so we trooped out by the stage along with the gazillion others devoted in attendance. It was the moment of truth darling. BigFish's Join Boy DJ'd over the Pioneer turntables to the awaited star-studded music. His trademark beats filled the air, that characteristic Van Dyk primal throb. I could feel myself get swept up in the excitement darlings, do I'm sure you









would it you ever thought well
then you a collective roar even from as back in the nether reaches of the bustling NBC tent. It recognized that it was their man who was the king. Forgive my darlings if I write this piece in numbed awe because such was the magnificent impact of hearing Paul Van Dyk weave his magic. I only hoped

What can I say? With a blast darlings. Words cannot convey the exhilaration I felt to how can I ever bring words to describe the night that was and forever will be Addict Mobile's Paul Van Dyk Live in Manila. We'll catch you at the next one!

# Six films make it to Cinemalaya festival's short narrative finals

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Dec. 15, the Cinemelaya Philippine Independent Film Festival announced the finalists in its first short narrative film competition, which will be screened for the public at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in February next year, along with the finalists in the festival's full-length tilt for new filmmakers.

Only one winner will be chosen in both tilts, but it is hoped that many of the other finalists will find favor with the viewing public, and with movie producers, who could then offer the new writer-directors follow-up projects in mainstream cinema.

In the short (20-minute) narrative competition, the six winners

PEREZ. Plays female lead role in "Mansyon."

are (in no particular order) "Mansyon" by Joel Ruiz, "Kultado" by Lawrence Fajardo, "Panaginipan" by Anna Isabelle Matutina, "Babae" by Sigrid Andrea Bernardo, "Blood Bank" by Pam Miras, and "Alimuom" by Rommel Tolentino.

What made the six finalists stand out in the competition's field of 37 short-story films? "Mansyon" is about a housemaid (Roselyn Perez) and her husband, who are tasked with the upkeep of a wealthy woman's house while she's on an extended trip abroad. What happens while she's away is a telling comment on human nature and contrasting social attitudes and mores.

## Violence

"Kultado" tells the textured story of an abbatoir and the animal and human violence that takes place there. Specifically, it dramatizes the conflict between a group of pretty usurers and protection racketeers, and the "little" people whom they oppress. In the short film's instructive denouement, they soon remain "little" no longer.

"Panaginipan" explores young women's growing, cautionary fascination with death and suicide, which they attempt to "rehearse" in various ways.

"Babae" sheds light on the conundrum of gender, as it tells its unique story about two girls who become best friends, and then soulmates. Eventually, they even start a family, with a baby thrown in for good measure!

In the process, the film also investigates other aspects of gender, as "society" sees it, and as it continues to redefine itself in the real world.

## Transfusions

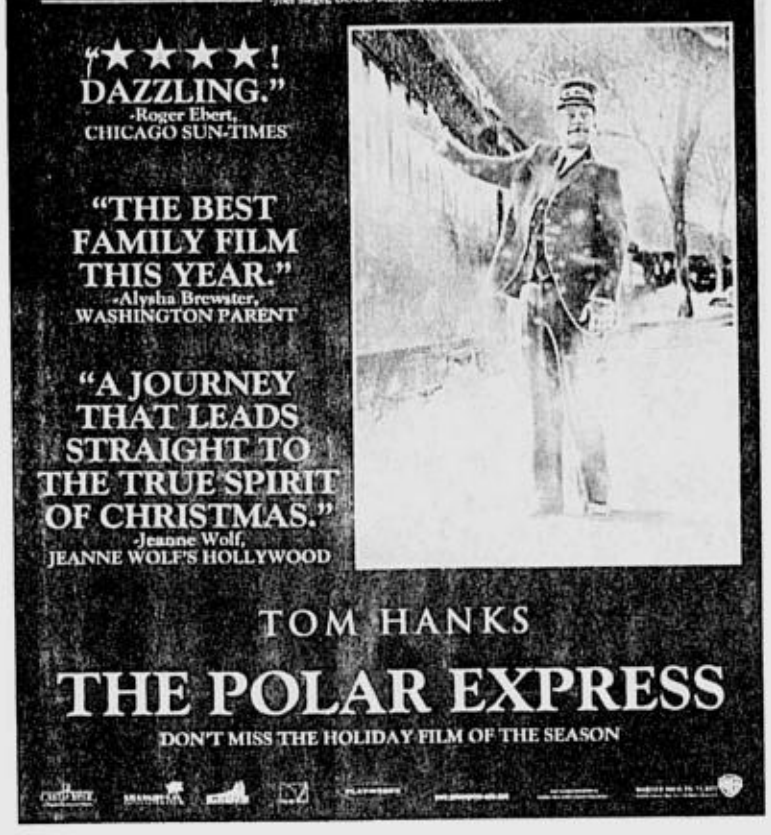
"Blood Bank" is about a sick woman who has to get frequent transfusions to keep her alive, and a man who sells his blood to sustain his own existence. The ironic significance of their uniquely symbiotic relationship is the story's potent thematic thrust.

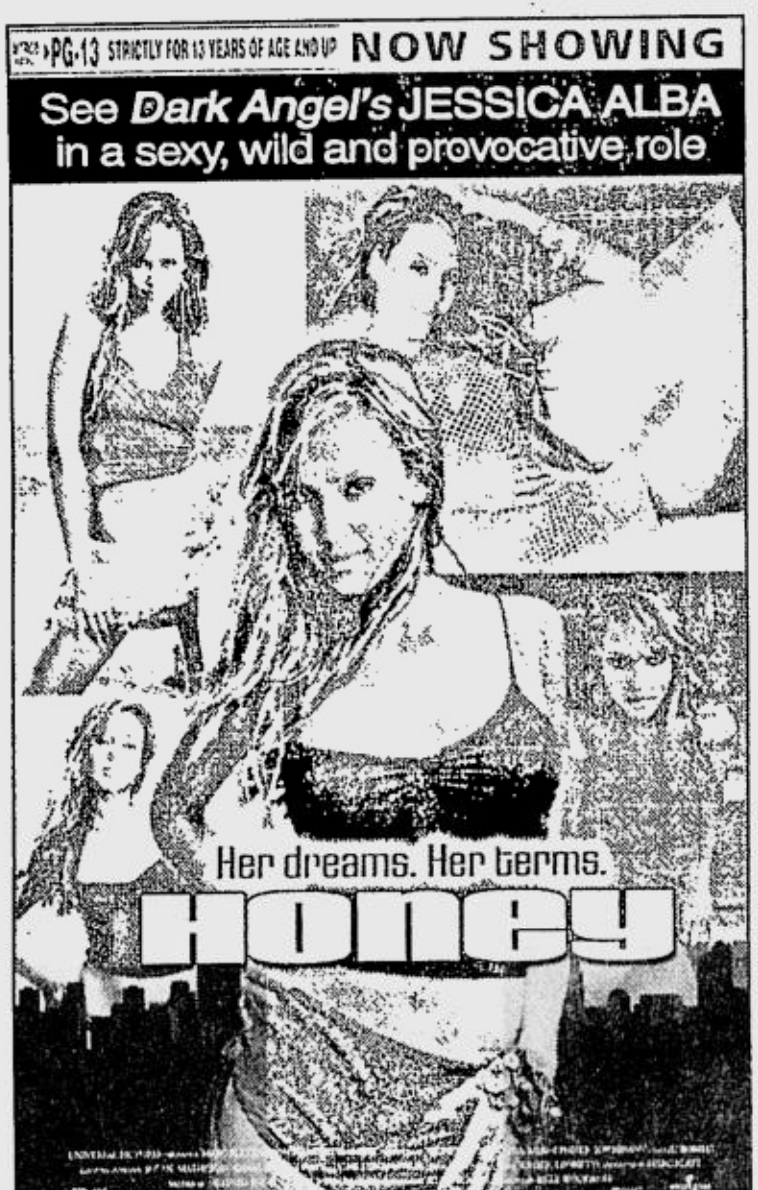
Eventually, other creatures elbow their way into their bloody fugue for two, adding a new dimension to their uniquely "roseate" relationship.

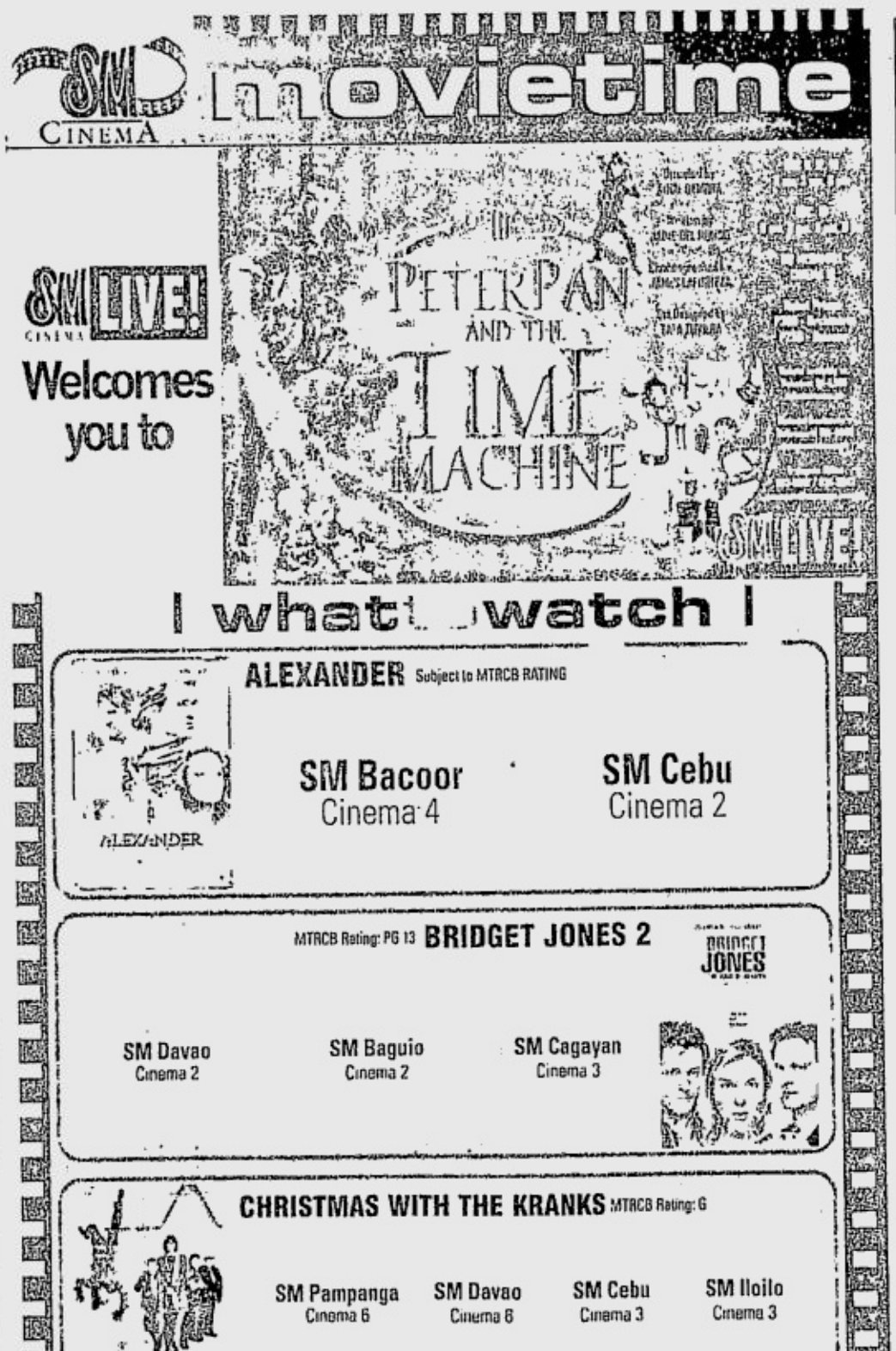
Finally "Alimuom" is about a murder that turns out to be much more than what the murderer ever envisioned.

The six finalists were chosen by a board of judges chaired by Film Devlopmment Council of the Philippines head Laurice Guillen, with Manet Dayrit, Mark Escaler, Cesar Hernando, Lee Meily and this writer as members.

Next February, a new set of jurors will select the top winner in the short narrative competition of the Cinemalaya festival.








## *Gay movie tops Indonesian filmfest*

JAKARTA—The first Indonesian movie to seriously deal with gay relationships scooped five honors including best film at a major film festival in this world's largest Muslim nation, a report said recently.

### Satire

"Arisan," a satire on the superficial life of a bunch of upper middle class urbanites, won the best film award at the 2004 Indonesian Film Festival, held again here after a 12-year hiatus, the Kompas daily said.

Written and directed by young Indonesian director Nia Dinata, the film also won four other "Citra" awards—best editing, best leading actor, best supporting actor and best supporting actress.

### First

The film, which was the first in Indonesia to openly broach the subject of a gay relationship without resorting to camp comedy, beat out 34 other Indonesian films competing in the festival.

The two award-winning actors played the film's gay characters who are shown kissing in one scene, while another scene has a brief aerial shot of a woman providing oral sex services to a man in a public toilet.

### Upsurge

The annual Indonesian Film Festival was first held in 1973, but it was abandoned in 1992 after local film production shuddered to a halt amid a flood of cheaper import movies. It has been revived amid an upsurge in Indonesian moviemaking. *AFP*

## Hollywood . . .

From page A2-2

$147 million in Japan last year because of piracy problems.

"Piracy cost the Motion Picture Association over $3.5 billion last year, and I am afraid it will continue to rise. Certainly, some places have contained the problem and reduced it, but in other places, the problem is increasing," he said.

### Raids

MPA said it assisted police in conducting nearly 13,000 raids in Asia-Pacific in 2003, initiated almost 9,100 legal actions, and was responsible for the seizure of 44 million illegal discs.

"We have to appeal to the public to recognize and reject the criminal behavior. If we can reduce and stop piracy, the whole industry will continue to thrive and grow." *Reuters*

# Stripped tracks brighten Toby Lightman's debut CD

By Noelani Torre

YOU may not have heard of Toby Lightman yet, but we're sure you soon will. This blond 25-year-old musician is just too talented not to stand out. She also happens to have Peter Zizzo, who produced songs for Avril Lavigne and Vanessa Carlton, helming the production team of her debut album, "Little Things."

Zizzo isn't the only bigshot to have noticed her talent. Wyclef Jean produced her first demo material, and she has the legendary Nile Rodgers playing the electric guitar in "Devils and Angels" and "Front Row."

We were pleasantly surprised when we first listened to Lightman's album. Her talent was apparent from the very start, but the record itself is coherent, mature, and compelling. You'd think that she's been doing this for ages when, in fact, she only recently decided to make a career out of her music.

LIGHTMAN. Her album, "Little Things," is coherent, mature and compelling.

## Powerful voice

The first thing you'll notice is her voice—huge and dominating, husky, full of sass, it reminds us of Nelly Furtado, though it's unmistakably Toby Lightman. Zizzo has infused a lot of electronic clutter in this disc, but her highly individual and powerful voice just refuses to be upstaged.

It's obvious that a great deal of thought was put into the production of "Little Things." Its sound—a blend of acoustic, soulful pop infested with a lot of hooks and a little rock—is too much like today's trendy, middle of the road music calculated to appeal to the widest audience range possible. That isn't bad, but it does make it more difficult for us to locate the real Toby Lightman beneath all that pretty poptronica.

There's no denying the mainstream appeal of her glossier tracks, however. The first single released, "Devils and Angels," has the feel of a winning formula—acoustics, a hook-filled melody, R&B samples, a fast beat, and confident, feisty vocals.

Lightman wrote and co-wrote the songs in the album. Among her most memorable songs, lyrics-wise, are the groupie-themed "Front Row," where she asks whether she should "show affection/ to the guy in the front row"; "Don't Wanna Know," where she tells a musical idol that she'd "rather stay shy and get high/ on what could be"; and "Everyday," which reads like a trite diary entry, but is nevertheless honest and convincing.

"I don't really like to write specifically about the things that happen to me," she explains, "because when I listen to lyrics, I like it when I'm not being told how to interpret them. So, I tend to be pretty vague."

## Influence

The first track, "Leave It Inside," has a harder edge than most of the other songs here, and the phrasing reveals the influence of Mary J. Blige, an artist Lightman admits to admiring.

The real standouts in this album, however, are the stripped-down numbers like "Everyday" and "Running Away." Here, we can concentrate on Lightman's voice and her acoustic guitar. She doesn't need electronic dressing to make her music sound great.

# Martin Scorsese . . . From page A2-7

films, behind "Finding Neverland."

At first, that would seem to be a good thing. But, Hollywood pitchmen sometimes forget that fans often want to judge for themselves which film they think is best, and which directors and performers they think deserve accolades. They don't want to be told.

"Audiences begin to resent that," Scorsese said of the buzz.

## Madness

"Aviator" covers roughly 20 years in the life of Hughes, who went from film-producing wunderkind in the late 1920s to aviation genius of the 1940s, before slipping into the madness that plagued him until he died in 1976.

The film opens with Hughes (DiCaprio) in his early 20s when he was making 1930's aerial war film, "Hell's Angels." It moves through his love affairs with Katharine Hepburn (Cate Blanchett) and Ava Gardner (Kate Beckinsale), and depicts Hollywood's Golden Age and the nightlife at clubs like the legendary Coconut Grove.

At the same time, the movie covers Hughes' aviation genius. He developed the fastest plane of his day, and flew around the world in a record three days and 19 hours in 1938.

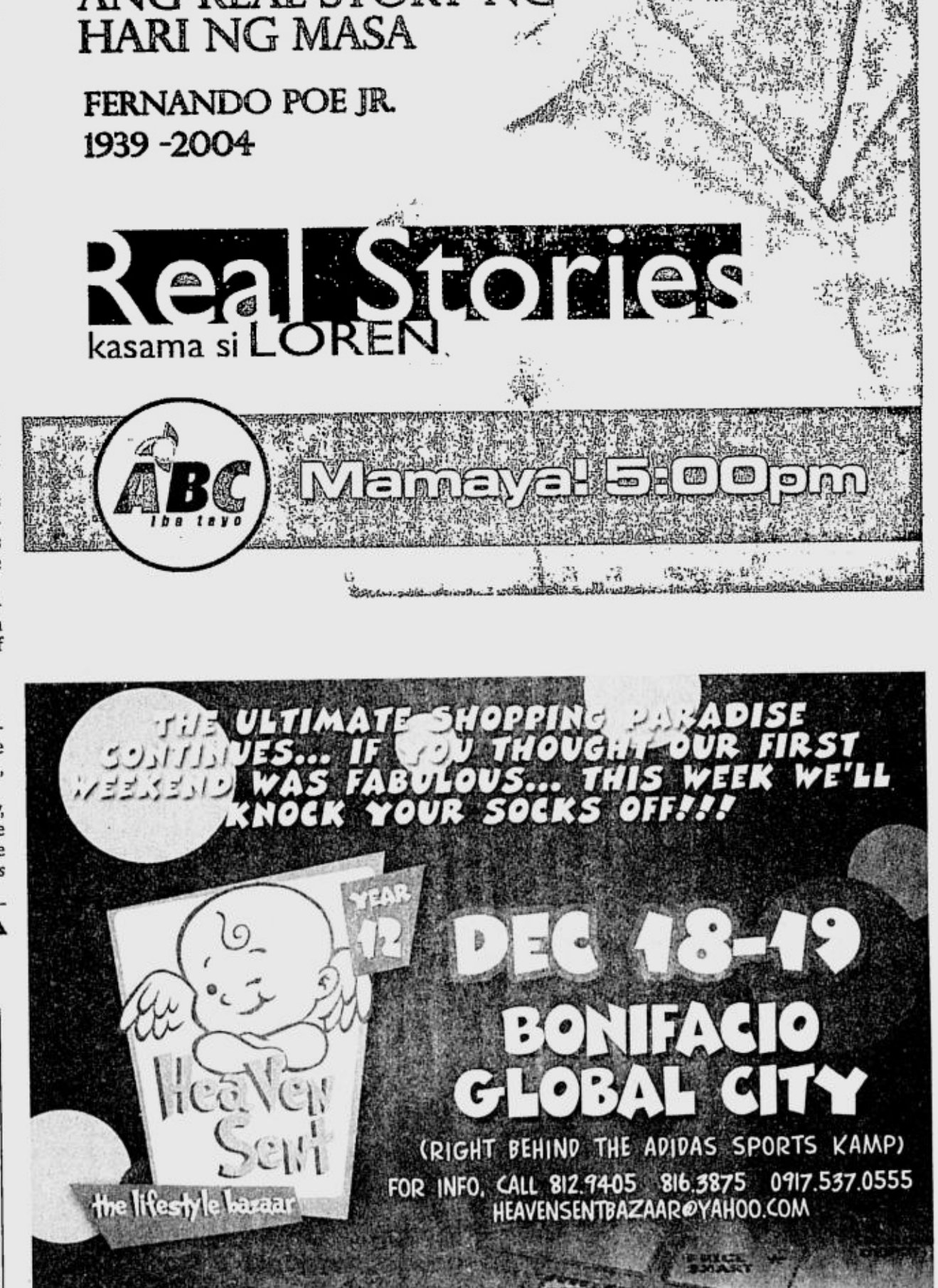
There were bad times, too. Hughes and his Trans World Airlines fought the US government and rival Pan American World Airways over international flight routes. The battle nearly landed TWA in bankruptcy.

Hughes suffered from obsessive-compulsive disorder and germ phobia. He is shown scrubbing his hands raw and locking himself alone in a room for weeks.

## Human drama

"Aviator" is a human drama, yet it also has elements of big-time moviemaking. Some of the flying scenes were produced with digital images, while others were made with plane models.

Scorsese first shot "Aviator" traditionally, then used digital technology to reprocess the film to make it look like the movies of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. *Reuters*



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# Farrell makes US TV debut in hit sitcom

FARRELL. Primetime bow.

LOS ANGELES—Irish star Colin Farrell, fresh from his big-screen turn as Alexander the Great, is set to make his US television debut in the hit sitcom, "Scrubs," the industry press said recently.

The 28-year-old star of the critically unacclaimed "Alexander" will guest star in a role to which he is accustomed—as an unruly Irishman, in an episode to be aired in the United States on Jan. 25, Daily Variety said.

**Result**

Bad boy Farrell's primetime bow is the result of his friendship with Zach Braff, the star of the tongue-in-cheek show about the life of hospital doctors.

The role marks Farrell's first foray onto the small screen since his role in the British TV series, "Ballykissangel," in 1998-99.

Since then, Farrell has become one of Hollywood's faster-rising stars, scoring roles in Tom Cruise's 2002 film, "Minority Report," 2002's thriller, "Phone Booth" and the 2003 action-hero film, "Daredevil." AFP


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2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
3 NED KELLY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:00
5 BIRTH 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
6 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
7 SHREK 2 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 HONEY 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
9 BAD SANTA 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
10 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

**ERMITA** 536-7809 to 12

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 BAD SANTA 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 6:30 10:00
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30 10:00
4 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
5 RESERVE
6 HONEY 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 9:50

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1 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 ALEXANDER 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
3 SHREK 2 11:50 1:45
BRIDGET JONES 2 3:55 6:25 9:00
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:50 12:50 2:50
2046 4:50 7:05 9:20
5 HONEY 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
6 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05
7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
8 BAD SANTA 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

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1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
3 BIRTH 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:30 12:30 2:30
2046 4:35 6:50 9:00
5 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:10
ONE MISSED CALL 3:30 5:50 8:30
6 SHREK 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 6:50 8:30
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2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20
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3 POLAR EXPRESS FS 11:30AM 4:30PM, LMF 9:30PM (GP)
SHREK 2 FS 2:00PM, LMF 7:00PM (GP)
4 ALEXANDER FS 12:15PM, 3:30PM 6:45PM LMF 10:00PM (R-13)

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| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
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| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

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| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | SALAT SA LIGAYA |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

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| B | CLOSED |
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| (LAS PIÑAS) | NATIONAL TREASURE |
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# International recognition boosts lean film year

By Rito P. Asilo

WHEN Film Year 2004 culminates at this month's Metro Manila Film Festival, the beleaguered Philippine movie industry (currently reeling from the untimely demise of its acknowledged "King," Fernando Poe Jr.) will have released 55 locally produced feature films—including the festival's eight entries—as opposed to 192 foreign productions distributed to local theaters this year.

The glaring disparity between the two figures is, to say the least, cause for grave concern. Unfortunately, the gloomy scenario doesn't end there.

In an interview with the MTRCB's Paul del Mundo (thanks to Seiko head honcho Robbie Tan for his valuable tip), we learned that the figure was 25 films short of the local output last year, when there were 80 local movies and 201 international films released—a staggering drop of more than 30 percent! (In 2002, the output was 92.)

## Transparency

According to the UP Film Institute's Nonoy Lauzon, the industry needs to professionalize the gathering of its data so that the resulting figures could help assess its "problems."

He laments: "For some reason, we don't even have a website that monitors information on domestic grosses, and no scientific assessment of figures like the one practiced in Hollywood—because grosses are considered 'classified information' here. Our industry lacks the transparency needed to honestly assess itself." Producers, take note!

During the first three quarters of the year, only 36 local films were released—including the two holdover entries of the 2003 MMFF: Seiko's delightful box-office charmer, "Bridal Shower," and Erik Matti's "Gagamboy," which recently won the Audience Prize at the 5th Utopiales International Festival of Science Fiction in France.

Ironically, it was a bold film, Neal Tan's "Puri," starring Hanni Miller, that sizzled at the box office immediately after last year's lackluster MMFF. Sexy films comprised a sizable chunk of the 55 movies, but moviegoers' interest in that particular film genre considerably ebbed after the influential SM group of cineplexes decided to ban their exhibition.

This has led to fewer sexy productions, while the few who persevered sadly endured first-day, last-day screenings before they vanished from the face of the earth.

## Runaway hit

The year's runaway hit is Chito Rono's well-made frightfest, "Feng Shui," from Star Cinema. Given the film industry's P200-million benchmark for blockbuster domestic gross, the Kris Aquino starrer grossed an impressive P170 million during its commercial run in Metro Manila theaters. (The film is still being shown in cinemas across the country and abroad.) Prior to this, only Ai-Ai delas Alas' "Tanging Ina" and Vilma Santos' "Anak" exceeded this stratospheric figure.

Curiously, ABS-CBN's film division must be doing something right, because all of their movies ("Bcuz of U," "Now That I Have You," "All My Life," etc.) have reached the P100-million mark, except the disappointing "Volta."

On a brighter note, triumphs of Pinoy features like Matti's "Gagamboy" at international film festivals have buoyed up the industry's sagging spirits.

Accolades won in the last five years include "Magnifico's" Grand Prix at Berlin's Kinderfilmfest and at the Rome International Children's Film Festival, the Silver Kite award in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Special Jury prize in Belgium;

## Independent

Sharon Cuneta ("Crying Ladies") tied with Nora Aunor ("Naglalayag") for best actress, and Yul Servo ("Naglalayag") won the best actor award (his second after 2002's "Batang West Side," which he shared with Joel Torre) at the 31st International Festival of Independent Films in Brussels; fellow superstar Vilma Santos won the same award in 1999 for "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?" and another award at the 2003 Cinemanila for "Dekada '70"); the three Quizon men (Dolphy, Eric and Jeffrey) shared best actor honors in Belgium in 2000 for "Markova";

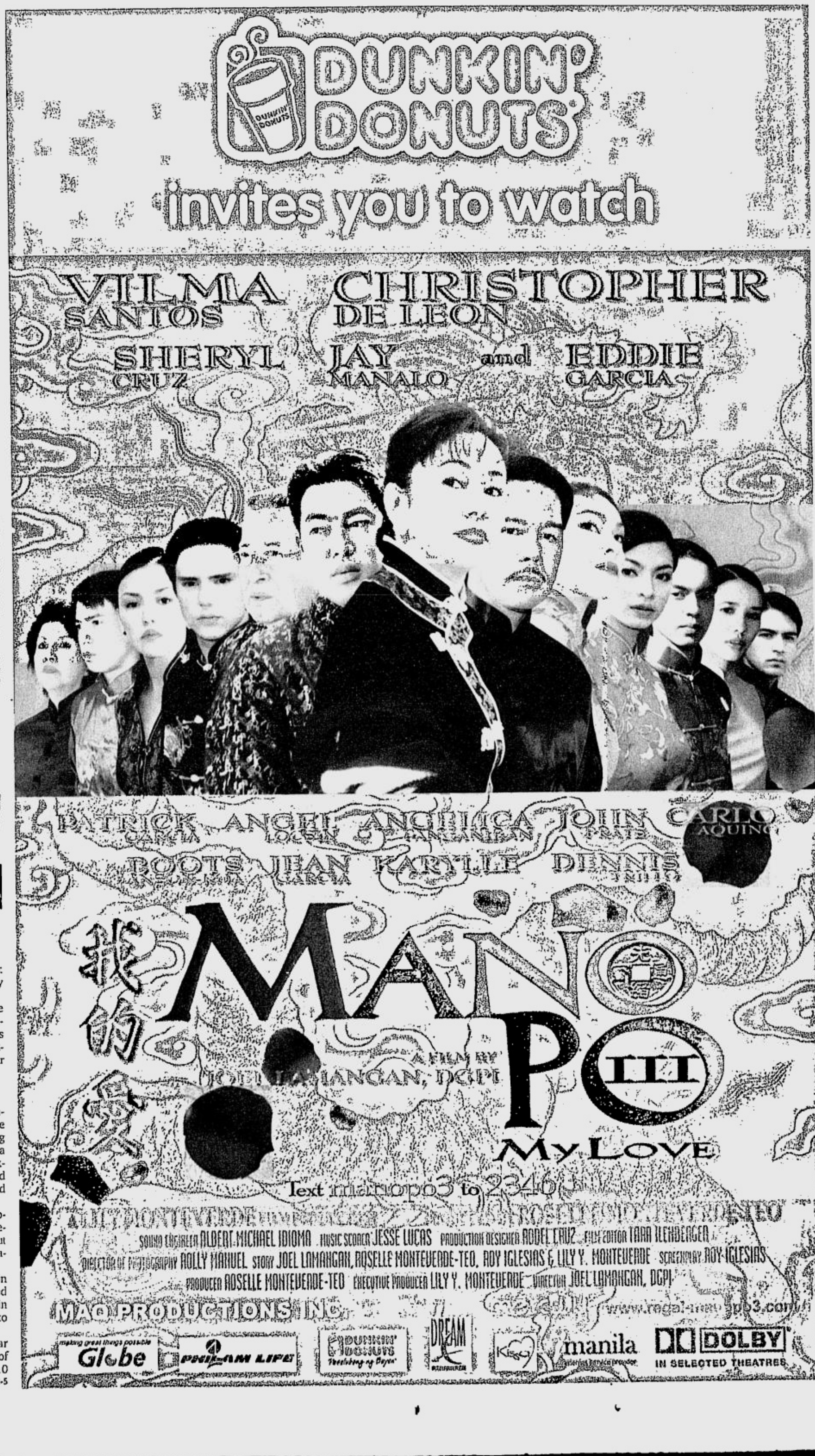
AUNOR AND CUNETA. Shared best actress honors in Belgium.

Katherine Luna (Mario O'Hara's "Babae sa Breakwater") won best actress trophies at the 6th Cinemanila and the 6th Festival of Asian Cinema in India; and Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig" copped the best feature award at the Palm Beach International Film Festival last year. And, of course, there's Raymond Red's triumphant 13-minute "Anino" (Shadows), which won Cannes' *Palme D'Or* for short film in 2000.

## Documentary

Some Pinoys like Ramona Diaz (her documentary, "Imelda," won the cinematography prize at this year's Sundance) and Noel Izon (his documentary, "An Untold Triumph: America's Filipino Soldiers," won the audience and documentary prizes in Hawaii two years ago) may no longer hold Philippine passports, but their victories nevertheless inspire us.

Now, let's hope that Mark Meilly's flawed but delightful "Crying Ladies" will make us proud on Feb. 27 at the 2005 Oscars.




# Martin Scorsese is still learning

SCORSESE. Will "The Aviator" give him his first Oscar?

LOS ANGELES—Even master director Martin Scorsese, whose films include "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull," admits he still has things to learn about moviemaking.

Scorsese's "The Aviator," starring Leonardo DiCaprio as eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes, hits US cinemas this month with the expectation that it may be the year's best movie, and earn Scorsese his first Oscar. He dismisses such talk as hype that could ultimately ruin the movie for audiences.

The director is known, mostly, for small-scale films. But like 2002's "Gangs of New York," "Aviator" is a big, flashy Hollywood movie. It comes to audiences full of digital effects that the 62-year-old director has rarely used in a career spanning more than 40 years.

## Expectation

"The problem is, there is a certain expectation," he told Reuters. "Will this experiment be accepted by an audience that wants something else? I don't know." Scorsese was among a group of maverick directors in the 1970s making hit movies outside Hollywood. He focused on low-budget, urban stories of tormented characters seeking personal redemption.

In the 1980s, he suffered setbacks like the controversial "The Last Temptation of Christ," then rebounded in 1990 with "Goodfellas," a drama about a turncoat Mafia foot soldier, cementing his reputation as a maestro of moviemaking.

"Gangs," about rival gang warfare set in 1860s New York, was hyped by Hollywood pitchmen as the film that would finally win Scorsese a best director Oscar. But, he lost to Roman Polanski ("The Pianist").

"Aviator," too, comes heaped with Oscar buzz, and already, the the National Board of Review, put it at No. 2 on its list of top 10

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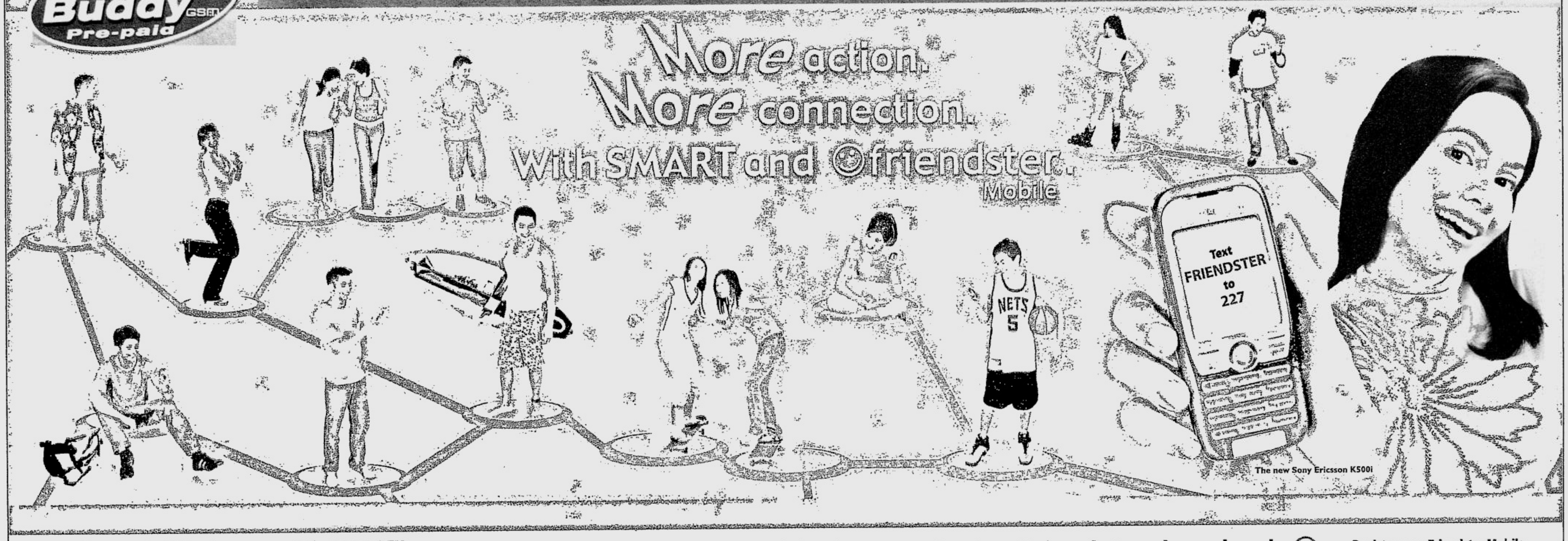


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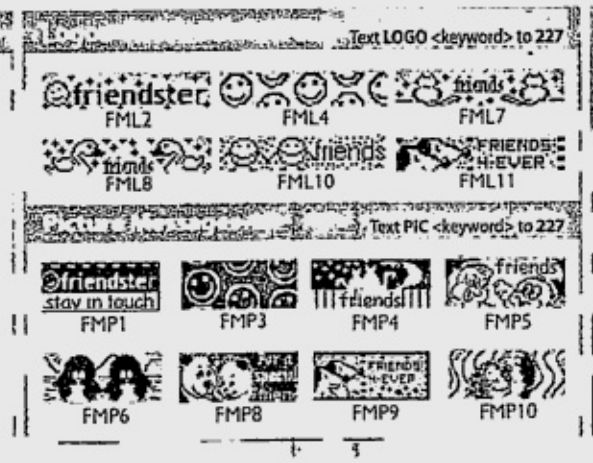


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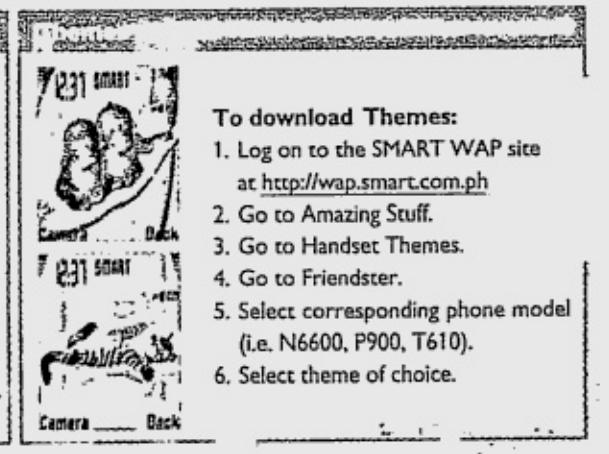


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NOW SHOWING

# Billy Bob Thornton plays naughty but nice Santa

By Rito P. Asilo

**"Bad Santa"**
D: Terry Zwigoff
S: Billy Bob Thornton

FOR seven consecutive years in seven cities, Willie (Billy Bob Thornton) and Marcus (Tony Cox) have been getting themselves hired as department store Santa Claus and his three-foot elf. But, everything's a ruse for the sly, world-weary conmen, who stay inside the store after the mall closes on Christmas Eve, then crack the safe open for their annual loot.

But, an eight-year-old boy (Brett Kelly) with a seemingly pathologic fascination for Santa Claus and a neurotic mall manager (John Ritter, delightful in his last big-screen performance) don't make things easy for the duo—especially for the depressive, foul-mouthed, sex-crazed, alcoholic protagonist. Not a very morally upstanding character, huh?

To complicate things further, he meets Sue (Lauren Graham), a beautiful bartender with a fetish for Santa costumes. This time, though, the attraction seems mutual. When he tries to commit suicide by poisoning himself with carbon monoxide, his interactions with the fat kid with the low self-esteem and the kind lady with a voracious sexual appetite suddenly become substantial considerations—for the first time in his life!

At first glance, Terry Zwigoff ("Ghost World," "Crumb") shatters feel-good notions about the mythology of Santa Claus, but the director's hilarious, in-your-face depiction of the film's twisted characters—whose weaknesses eventually lead to their salvation—makes it easy for audiences to relate to them.

When Willie "terrorizes" the neighborhood bullies who make the kid's life a living hell, he starts to feel good about himself—and consequently finds his humanity, after love and friendship work together to resurrect his conscience.

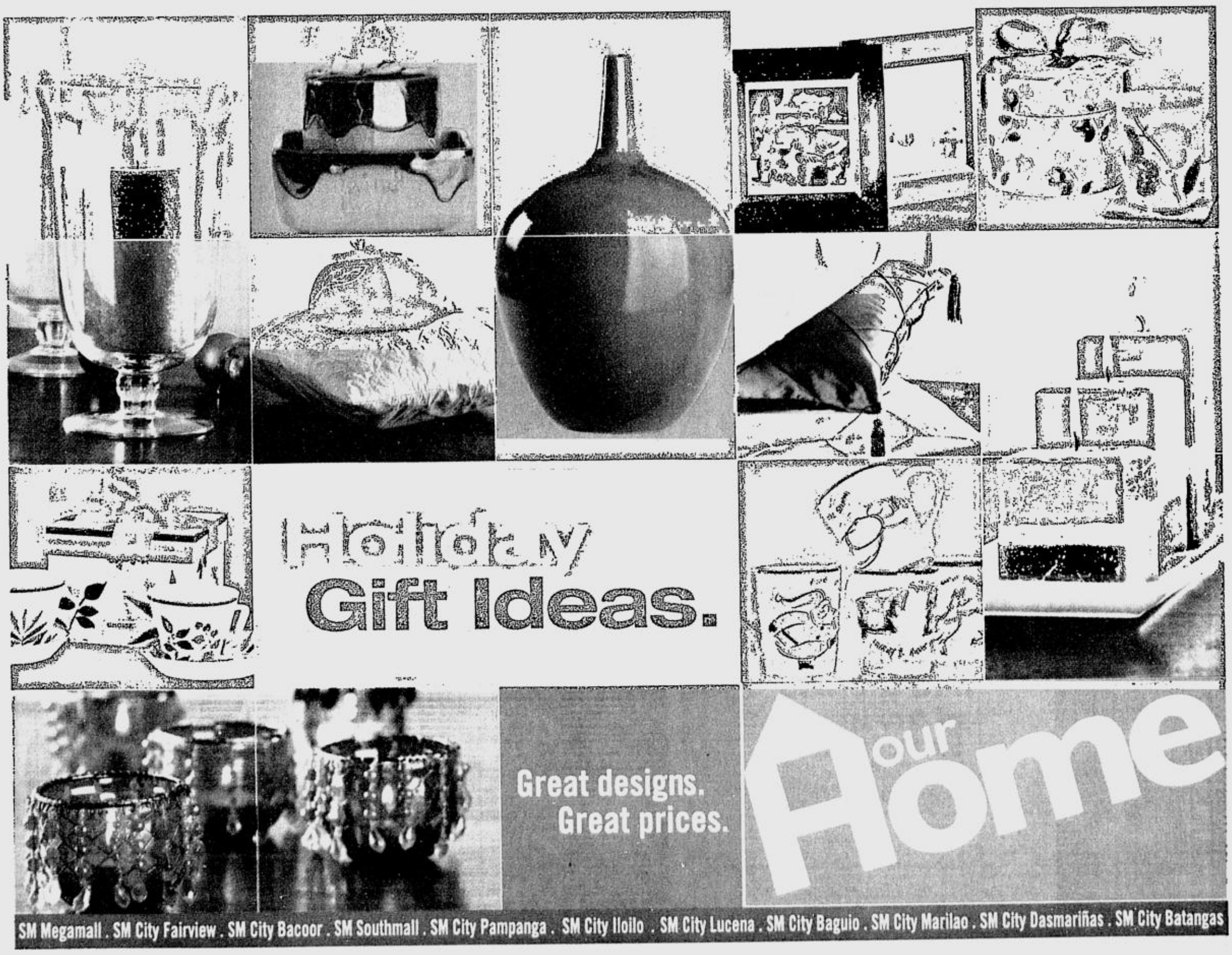
The movie is *not* for the whole family (in fact, cuss words are used 243 times in the film, a record of sorts for a "Christmas" movie!). But it is good for adult, lost souls who are in constant search for meaning.

**"Honey"**
D: Bille Woodruff
S: Jessica Alba, Mekhi Phifer

Honey Daniels ("Dark Angel's" Jessica Alba) is a sexy, promising 22-year-old choreographer with a heart of gold, who gets her fork in the road when mentor-director Michael Ellis (David Moscow) lures her into the big-time—and into his bed! Should she show him

BILLY/A3-2

THORNTON (LEFT) AND COX (RIGHT). Play the twisted protagonists in Terry Zwigoff's dark comedy.



# International Month celebrations

STREET SMART

*Mandy Navasero*

ESTEBAN International School recently celebrated International Month to promote peace and friendship among nations. Every classroom had mothers who talked about their respective countries. They also prepared activities for the students, and food from their country for the children to taste.

## Six countries

In the Grade 2 class, there were six countries represented. Mrs. Charo Lukban and Mrs. Connie Kleist presented China. Mrs. Lukban made a power point presentation which the students enjoyed. Mrs. Kleist prepared Chinese lunch.

Mrs. Ji Eun Lee Park, dressed in a pink Korean costume, presented Korea. She showed and explained the Korean flag, traditional clothes and food.

Mrs. Marina Andrianova paired with Mrs. Elena Malyshev, a mother from Grade 1, for Russia. They showed pictures of Russia, and the students were awed by the beauty of the landscape. Like Mrs. Park, they brought Russian costumes and food.

Mrs. Dana Silverio presented the Philippines. She brought a Sepak Takraw team from the Philippine Air Force. The students enjoyed the *sipa* demonstration.

## Games

Marc and Palita Calica presented the United States of America. They prepared games and activities, and the students prepared their own American sandwiches. When asked what they learned about the USA, they answered, "They do things fast."

Warren and Tina Norton came from Spain. Mrs. Norton read a book and gave an enlightening talk about Spain. They also brought a Spanish costume. Mr. Norton talked about bullfighting. The students drank "wine" (grape juice) and ate "con gusto."

*(To be concluded)*

*E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com or call 896-3208 and 899-1767*

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BCUZ OF U SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Fairview Cinema 8; SM Southmall Cinema 9; SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10; SM Manila Cinema 12; SM Bacoor Cinema 2

HAROLD AND KUMAR SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM North Edsa Cinema 6; SM Megamall Cinema 4; SM Tutuban Cinema 2; SM Fairview Cinema 5; SM Southmall Cinema 4; SM Sucat Cinema 1; SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4; SM Manila Cinema 2

HONEY SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Tutuban Cinema 1; SM Southmall Cinema 2; SM North Edsa Cinema 8; SM Manila Cinema 1; SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9; SM Megamall Cinema 9

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB RATING: G
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2046 MTRCB RATING: R13
SM Fairview Cinema 12; SM Bacoor Cinema 3

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB RATING. PG 13
SM Manila Cinema 10; SM Megamall Cinema 11; SM Sucat Cinema 4; SM Bicutan Cinema 2; SM Davao Cinema 2; SM Baguio Cinema 2; SM Cagayan Cinema 3

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Manila Cinema 11; SM North Edsa Cinema 5; SM Sucat Cinema 1; SM Bicutan Cinema 1

NED KELLY SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 8; SM Bacoor Cinema 8; SM Southmall Cinema 7; SM Fairview Cinema 10

ONE MISSED CALL MTRCB RATING: R13
SM Manila Cinema 8; SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 6; SM Southmall Cinema 10; SM Bacoor Cinema 1; SM Fairview Cinema 1; SM Pampanga Cinema 5

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# Billy . . .

From page A3-1

the door and give up her dreams?

If you want truly amazing terpsichorean showdowns, go watch "You Got Served," instead.

Nevertheless, Alba is a refreshing presence on the big screen.

The film is occasionally slow and predictable, and is dragged down by archaic lines that sound forced.

Samples: "We just peoples," "You got flow," "How you gonna play me like that?," "This is whack!" Or, corny lines like: "When I first met you, you were 10 feet tall. Now, you're *this* big!"

After hearing those lines, honey, we were whacked—and bored!

**"Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle"**

D: Danny Leiner
S: John Cho, Kal Penn, Ethan Embry

Two twentysomething pals—one a Korean-American investment banker (John Cho), the other an Indian—American medical

BILLY/ A3-3

**ALBA AND PHIFER.** Lead cast of feel-good dance drama.

# Unresolved irritants hound Metro filmfest

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY year for the past decade, the Metro Manila Film Festival generally generates controversy that sadly limits its effectivity. This year's edition doesn't look like it's going to be an exception to the desultory rule.

The major sticking point this year is the unresolved (as of this writing) problem that four of the eight official entries are reportedly being produced by basically the same film group. If this isn't settled to the viewing public's satisfaction before the filmfest unreels on Dec. 25, its subsequent verdicts won't be taken seriously.

### Star power

On the other hand, the entries have sufficient star power to make the festival a commercial success. "Sigaw" has Richard Gutierrez, "So Happy Together" has Kris Aquino, "Mano Po 3" topbills Vilma Santos, "Aishite Imasu" has Judy Ann Santos, "Spirit of the Glass" has Marvin Agustin, "Enteng Kabisote" topbills Vic Sotto, "Panaghoy sa Suba" has Cesar Montano, and "Lastikman" has Sarah Geronimo.

Focusing on the films themselves, however, they represent a rather limited range of film types, with two productions ("Sigaw," "Spirit...") hewing to the horror-suspense format; three ("Mano...," "Panaghoy...," "Aishte...") representing various dramatic formats, "Happy..." mixing drama and comedy, and "Lastikman" going action-fantasy-adventure. So much for giving the holiday film audience the sufficiently varied viewing options that should be their due.

Also potentially controversial is the fact that one director, Joel Lamangan, is directing three of the filmfest's eight entries.

At first glance, this is a tribute to the director's cachet with the country's leading producers. On the other hand, this limits the chance for other filmmakers to benefit from the festival's career-boosting showcase, so the filmmaking feat turns out to have a downside.

### Commercial appeal

More significantly, the festival stresses commercial appeal too much, compromising its artistry in the process. On the other hand, the filmfest's dark horse, "Panaghoy...," could reap plus points due to the relative seriousness of its intent, and its determination to bring back the happy days of the heretofore vibrant Visayan movie industry.

**MONTANO. His movie, "Panaghoy Sa Suba," is the festival's dark horse.**

We hope that "Panaghoy..." is rewarded for its unusually rigorous efforts once the festival unreels on Dec. 25. Other possible contenders on point of quality are "Mano..." and "Aishite..."

This year's festival provides a good showcase for local film workers' animated or computer-generated visual effects, by way of fantasy productions like "Lastikman" and "Enteng..."

Unfortunately, even great visuals can't distract film buffs and industry workers from the controversies that have been bugging the festival for months now.

### Benefit

To make sure that next year's festival does much better, the rules for entry to the filmfest should be revised. The filmfest should go back to its "one film per producer" rule, to give more movie companies a chance to benefit from exposure in the year-end tilt.

Even more significantly, an entry to the festival should be based, not on a project's script, but on the finished film itself. What you see is what you get, so jurors will be in a better position to evaluate the entries.

Finally, Mowelfund's share in the festival's profits should be increased, because many film workers today are reeling from the local movie industry's current slump.

When Mowelfund's share was reduced last year, needy film workers really felt the pinch, as their benefits were reduced. Clearly, they need more, not less, help—so, have a heart!

## Billy Bob Thornton plays . . .

From page A3-2

school applicant (Kal Penn)—hit the road in search of White Castle hamburgers.

In the process, they go through a life-changing adventure, where they meet freaks, geeks, babes—as well as cameo-loving celebrities like Neil Patrick Harris (who makes fun of his "Doogie Howser" character here), Christopher Meloni ("Law and Order: SVU," "Oz") and Ryan Reynolds ("Van Wilder"). Occasionally inventive and warm, but this film is pulled down by protracted scenes involving gas jokes and brown humor. Yuck.

## Essence of Christmas

From page A3-4

Alcohol and drugs cloud our vision, and lead to hallucinations and fantasies. They distort our perception of reality, and lead to loss of control over intelligence and emotion. Thus, a person becomes not only spiritually blind, but also violent.

Let us experience the spirit of Christmas in humility and sobriety. Let's praise and honor Jesus Christ by doing what he wants us to do. By doing this, we will experience the true meaning of love and peace in our hearts.

*Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com*

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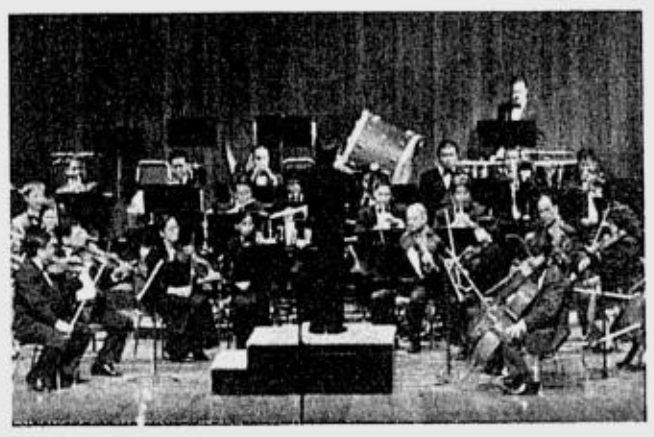

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| December 4 | 5:00 p.m. | Robinsons Starmills Pampanga |
| December 5 | 5:00 p.m. | Robinsons Place Pioneer |
| December 7 | 3:00 p.m. | NE Pacific Mall |
| December 9 | 3:00 p.m. | Robertson Mall, Naga City |
| December 12 | 5:00 p.m. | Robinsons Metro Bacolod |
| December 13 | 7:00 p.m. | Ayala Center Cebu |
| December 14 | 4:00 p.m. | Gaisano Mall of Davao |
| December 16 | 3:00 p.m. | CSI The City Mall - Dagupan |
| December 17 | 5:00 p.m. | Robinsons Place Lipa |
| December 17 | 7:00 p.m. | The Podium |
| December 18 | 5:00 p.m. | Robinsons Place Manila |
| December 20 | 4:00 p.m. | SM City Iloilo |
| December 21 | 5:00 p.m. | SM Makati |
| December 23 | 4:00 p.m. | SM City Fairview |
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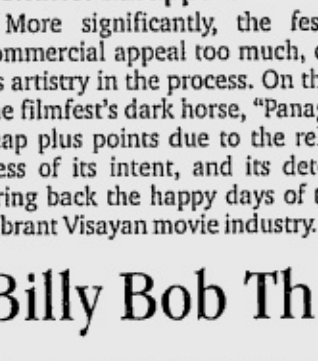
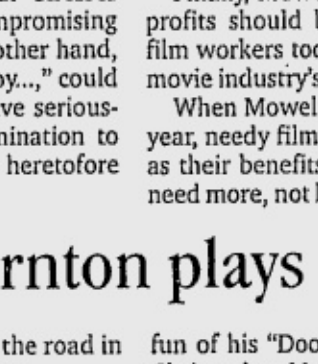


Danny Aielo



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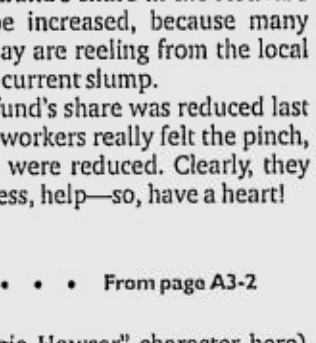
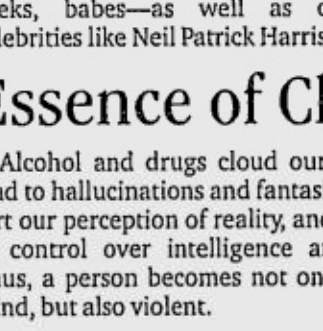


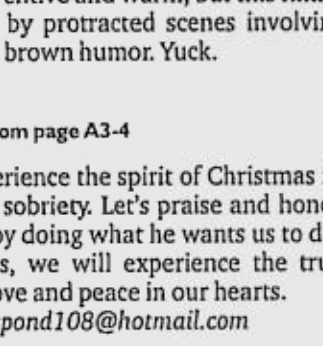
Marie N

Supreme standards



Simply Gold

Nostalgia in HI-Fi



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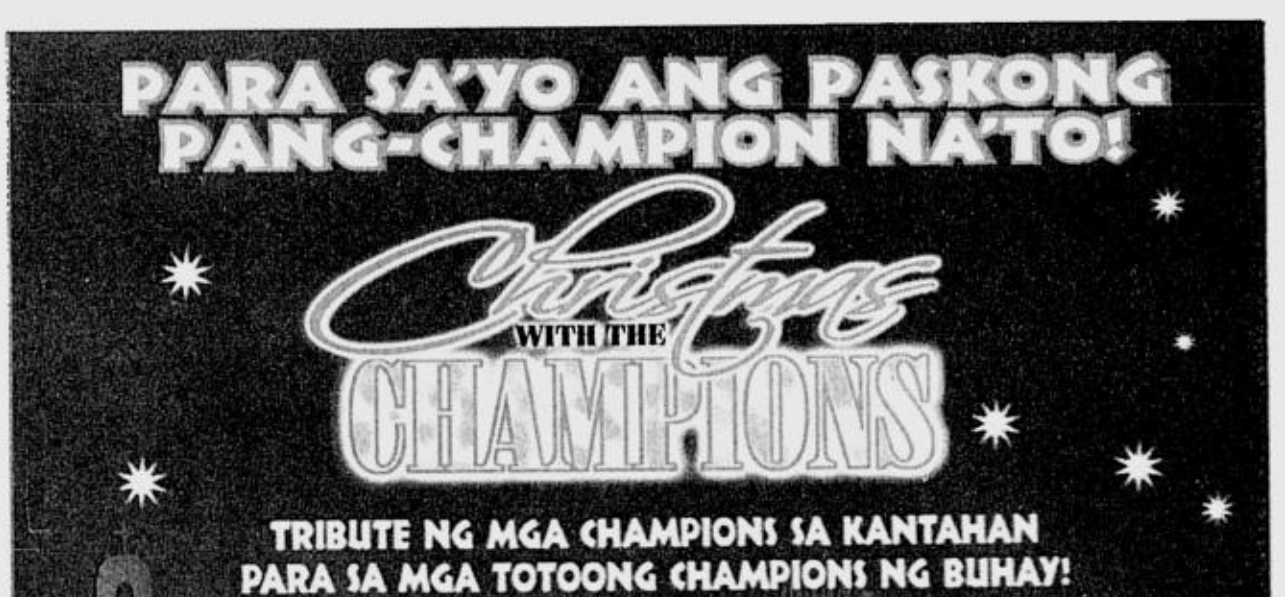

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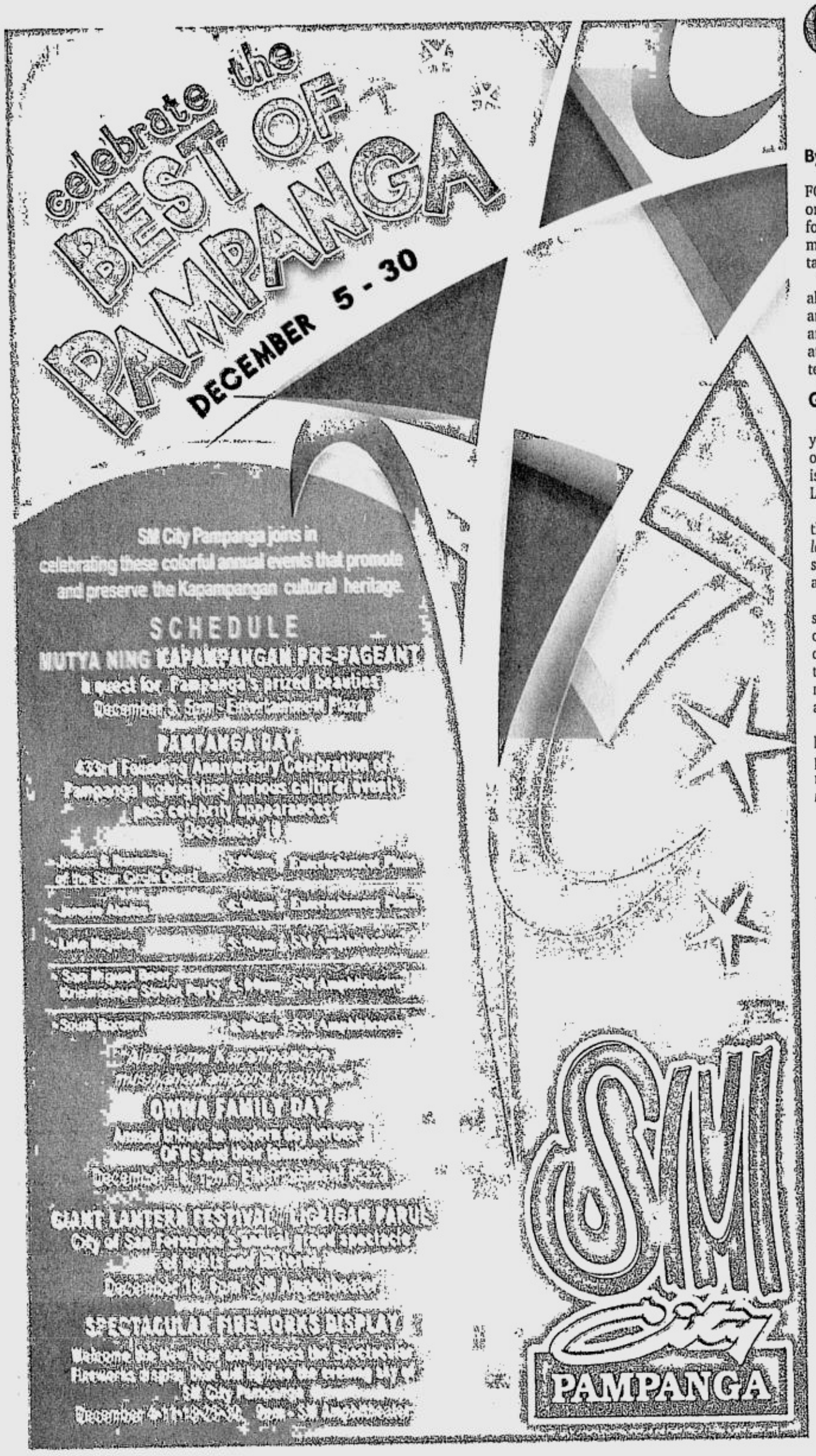



# OPM continues to thrive at Viva Records

By Remy Umerez

**VELASQUEZ. Her latest album, "Covers," turned platinum after a week.**

FOR 2004, Viva Records continued to support original Filipino music by producing albums for talented new discoveries who may be tomorrow's Regine Velasquez or Sharon Cuneta.

The company's current bestsellers are the albums of Regine Velasquez, Sarah Geronimo and Ogie Alcasid. Regine's "Covers," for example, was released last month and immediately turned platinum (30,000 units sold) after a week.

## Gay market

"Regine hasn't done an album in four years. Her latest CD contains cover versions of songs popularized by Filipino male vocalists. It also includes videos of 'Say That You Love Me' and 'Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin.'"

"Regine's fans don't mind spending for their idol's CD *basta makumpleto ang kanilang* collection. Curiously, she also has a considerable gay market that looks up to her as an icon," Vincent del Rosario analyzes.

Sarah Geronimo, a product of a talent search conducted by Viva, became a symbol of hope for aspiring singers. "The record industry constantly needs fresh talents to keep the competition alive. We always welcome a new sound because it's good for business," he adds.

Ogie Alcasid's "I Am a Singer" scored a big hit when it was released recently, which surprised people who consider him only as a comedian and composer. " *Masipag kasi siyang mag*-promote, and the *masa* can relate to his songs," Vincent affirms.

## Inferior quality

To address the piracy problem confronting the industry, Del Rosario says that the company continues to remind buyers not to patronize pirated CDs because of their inferior quality. He cites the successful raids the Optical Media Board has been conducting to contain the problem. The campaign against piracy has become global, he says.

To help fight piracy, Viva Records has released CD Lites (that feature three hit songs) sold at low prices.

# Essence of Christmas

**LOTUS POND**

*R. Valencia and S. Bismark*

THE SPIRIT of Christmas can be experienced only by those who focus on the essence of Jesus' coming.

There are things that we should avoid because they lead us away from its true spirit:

1. Overeating—Jesus Christ lived a simple life centered around spirituality. He fasted for 40 days so that he could continuously meditate. Conquering the belly is important in spiritual life because it allows the use of the body for a higher spiritual purpose.

## Hunger

Intense hunger is not for material food. Our stomach can handle only so much. But, we overeat because we try to satisfy our spiritual hunger in the material dimension instead of the spiritual realm. When we overeat, we experience suffering instead of fulfillment.

During the Christmas season, let us be aware that Jesus Christ came to bring us real food: The word and teachings of God—and these are what we must truly feast on!

2. Slaughtering the innocent—Jesus taught us compassion and kindness, even for the lower species. He was born amidst farm animals, which were allowed to pay him honor and respect. He'd never be happy to see animals suffer. He wants everyone—the animals included—to experience peace and love.

3. Intoxication—Jesus was called the "light of the world" because he came to show us the truth. Truth destroys the dark veil of ignorance.

ESSENCE/ A3-3

# Telling points in media workshops discussed

By Nestor U. Torre

*(Conclusion)*

TOWARD the end of our acting and theater workshop at the University of Baguio, the workshoppers expressed their need to learn other skills, like directing, because Baguio schools generally didn't offer courses in those disciplines.

We said we could go back to teach other workshops early next year, but they would take more time, since directing, for instance, would be more difficult to master.

In addition, they would also have to be more serious and focused, and rise above the prevalent *"utak probinsiya"* that pulls down potential talents in the provinces. The workshoppers pledged to be more serious, and 26 of them said they most needed a directing workshop.

## Film appreciation

The following day, we went to the venue early, so we could start our other workshop, on film appreciation, at 8 a.m. Alas, when we got to the venue, there were only three students there!

Since we wanted the masscom students to appreciate the importance of discipline and to understand the value of time in media, we began the workshop with only the three students present.

Soon, other workshoppers began to trickle in, and the time came when the hall was full. But, we were still ticked off by some of the students' undisciplined attitude and behavior.

But, we brushed off the feeling for the moment, and concentrated instead on giving a good workshop. We went through the components of the visual language of film, and the factors that made movies good.

## Difficult to grasp

Soon enough, we noticed that even the most film-savvy students in the group didn't have an organized and organizing knowledge of how the medium really worked, and acquired its unique power.

So, we focused on this major consideration, which a number of workshoppers found difficult to grasp. Well, nobody said that understanding the complex medium of film was going to be a walk in the park!

So, we went through the same points over and over again, until we sensed that a good number of the workshoppers finally understood the film medium's internal processes.

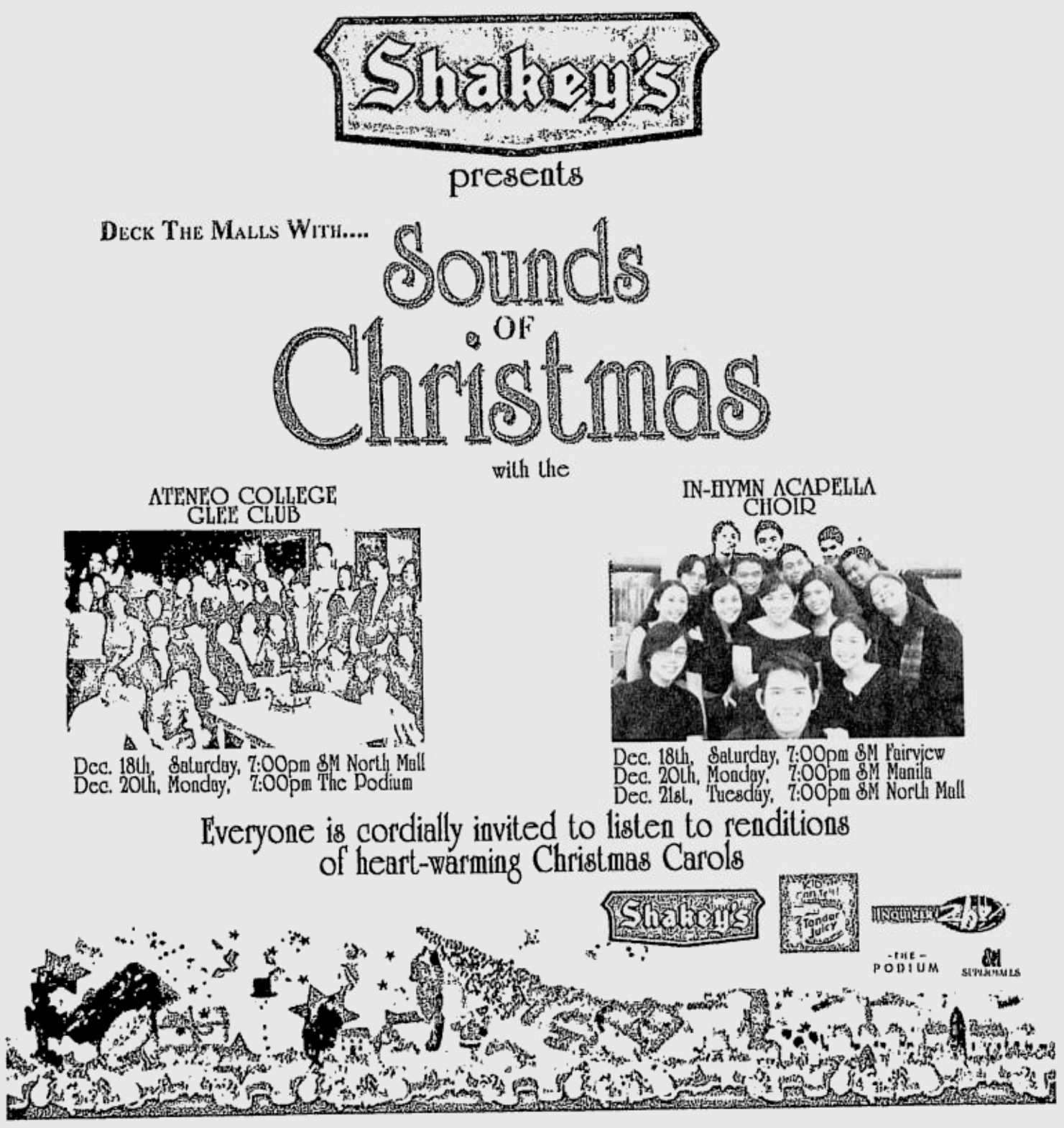
Unfortunately, others refused to go beyond passive acceptance and rote "understanding," so we decided to cut the workshop short.

## Helpful

We just hoped that enough teaching points had been dynamically clarified to make the second workshop sufficiently helpful to a good number of the workshoppers.

From this less than brilliantly successful experience, we derived some key points to help explain why not many students here become good and informed appreciators of film.

These include their refusal to go beyond literature and shift to the visual language of the medium, their failure to develop their understanding of how filmmakers communicate visually, and if they themselves decide to make a movie, their inability to cohesively organize their efforts for a truly outstanding effect.



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# SATURDAY special

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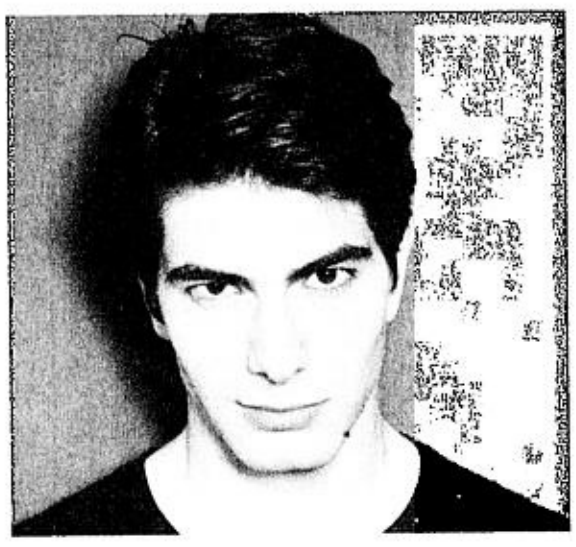
TRIVIAL PURSUITS

# Brandon Routh dons Superman's cape after Christopher Reeve

By Rito P. Asilo

DO you have questions about show biz you want answered, or fun facts and little-known trivia about your favorite celebrities? Get in touch with us at rasilo@inquirer.com.ph.



ROUTH AND REEVE. The Man of Steel, now and then.

## The 'Superman' that flew away

**Christopher Reeve shot to stardom when he donned "Superman's" red and blue suit in Richard Donner's 1977 big-screen adaptation of the story of the comic-book hero. Who was originally chosen to play Clark Kent's alter-ego? Who will play the Man of Steel in the highly anticipated remake?**

John Wayne's son, Patrick ("Young Guns"), was tapped to play "Superman" in 1977, but he dropped out of the project when he learned that his father had cancer.

Twenty five-year-old Brandon Routh ("Gilmore Girls," "Will and Grace") has been chosen to star in Bryan Singer's ("X-Men") "Superman Returns," which is scheduled for release in 2006.

## Sole celebrity

**Which movie actor was the lone Hollywood celebrity present at the wedding of Julia Roberts and cinematographer Danny Moder?**

Bruce Willis

## Class act

**Who were Sarah Michelle Gellar's high school classmates?**

Macaulay Culkin ("Home Alone"), Tara Reid ("American Pie") and Jerry O'Connell ("Jerry Maguire," "Tomcats").

## First song, final sequence

**What was the final sequence in the well-loved musical, "The Sound of Music," shot in Europe?**

The first musical number of the film, which showed Maria (Julie Andrews) singing the title track on a sun-draped hill, was the final sequence shot in Europe before the production team returned to Los Angeles. The scene was filmed in late June and early July 1964.

Despite her warm and sunny appearance, however, Andrews revealed in an interview that she was freezing as she ran up that mountain over and over again, while director Robert Wise had to climb up and hide in a nearby tree to oversee the helicopter shoot without getting in the frame.

# What have geese got to do with Christmas?

By Behn Cervantes

"ON the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me—a partridge in a pear tree. On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me: two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree . . ." So goes the well-known Christmas carol.

I have always loved the delightful melody. It is catchy, very much like a children's ditty. Invariably, I sing along when I hear it, but I have never quite understood what all those leaping lords, French hens, or that partridge have to do with Christmas. I didn't know for sure—until last year, thanks to the Internet:

## First wife

Historically, in the 16th century, Henry VIII broke off ties with the Vatican because the Pope refused to grant him permission to divorce his first wife, Catherine. He wanted to marry Anne Boleyn.

In a regal huff, he outlawed Roman Catholicism in his domain, and instead set up the Church of England.

So, from 1558 to 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to publicly practice their faith. How then could the members teach Catholicism to the children? A clever member wrote the carol's lyrics as a way to teach young Catholics vital lessons.

The information points out two levels of meaning: The surface meaning *plus* a hidden one known only to members of the *underground* church. Every element in the carol had a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

## Testaments

The partridge is Jesus Christ. The two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and charity. The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. —Get the drift?

The five golden rings are the first five books of the Old Testament. The six geese a-playing are for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represent "the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy."

## Beatitudes

The eight maids a-milking

WHAT/ A4-2

The Perfect Gift

For Someone Who Has Everything

What do you give to people on top? To people who know how to appreciate the finer things in life?

Give the gift of health.

At *Healthy Options*, you will find only pure, natural and organic health products. No artificial coloring or flavorings. No monosodium glutamate. No synthetic preservatives or sweeteners. Your choice of Christmas gifts is sure to be healthy!

They offer a wide range of the world's finest Organic Wines. Made by some of the finest wine boutiques in the world, these handcrafted organic wines come from the great wine producing countries: France, Italy, Spain, Chile, Argentina and South Africa. They are made from 100% certified organic grapes – grapes grown using only organic fertilizers, homeopathic sprays and natural preparations. Even the wine-making process is natural and vegan. Only natural substances are used to clarify the wine unlike conventional wines that use egg whites or milk and fish proteins in the bottling process. Every sip is a sip of satisfaction – knowing that the wine you get is distinctly complex and of the highest quality.

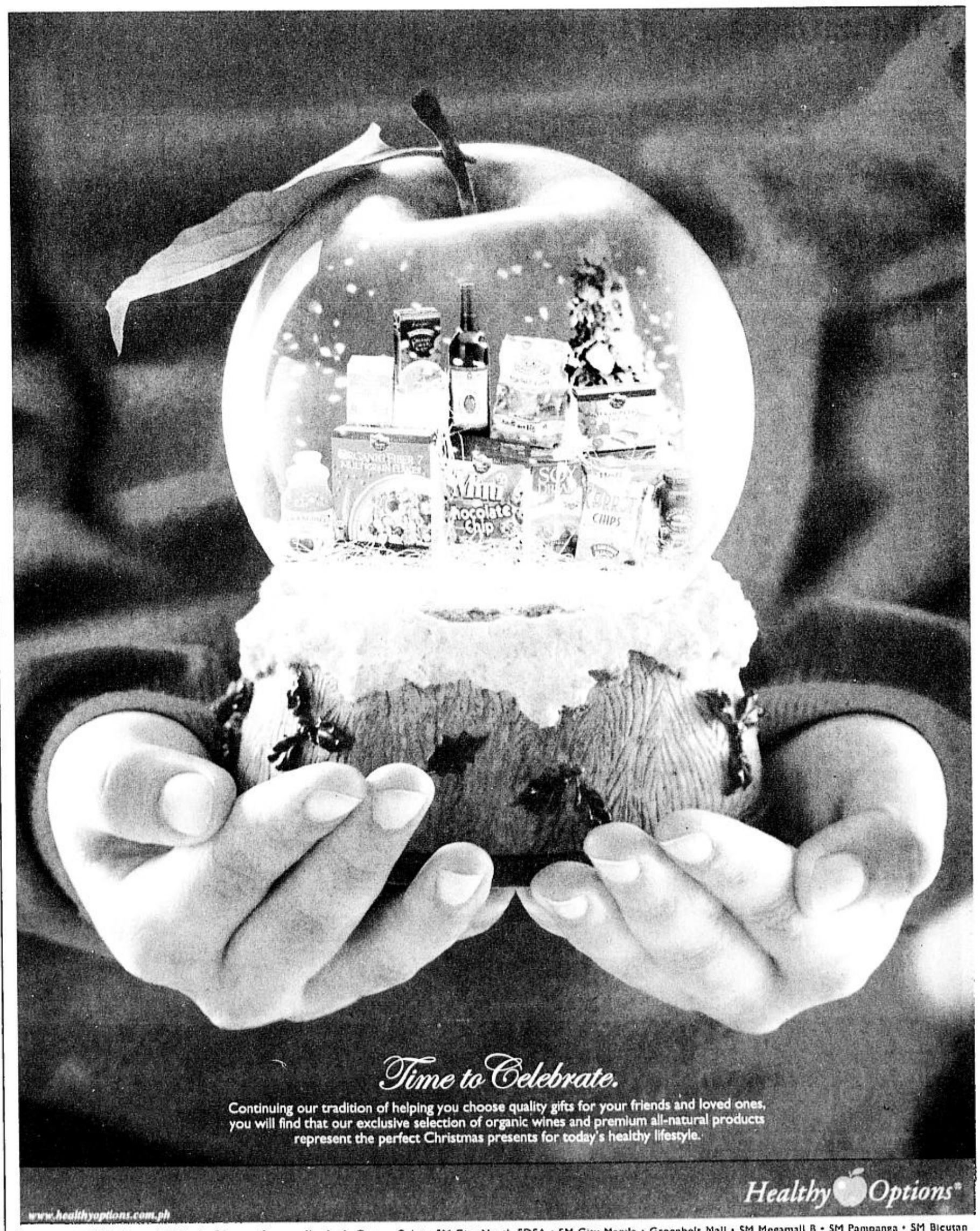
*Healthy Options* also offers gift packs with premium, pure, natural and organic health food items and personal care products.

Organic Harvest gift box. It's a package of pure, natural, organic food and drinks that gives Christmas dinners a healthy twist.

Natural Gourmet gift box. A great way of expressing your love for family and friends. This pack is an assortment of low sugar, low calorie and high fiber treats that will make feasting a sweet but guilt-free experience.

Create Your Own Gift Packs. Check out any *Healthy Options* store and create your own gift packs to suit your budget. Select from a wide array of naturally formulated personal care products that nourish and heal the body; as well as snacks, drinks or meals for those who have special diets or simply for those who are just looking out for their health.

It's time to celebrate the season in good health with organic wine and more – the perfect gifts for people who have everything.

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KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

Liwayway 11.15.48 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 12.18.04

# Christmas Stars vivify true Yuletide spirit

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR third batch of Christmas Stars comes from different entertainment fields, but they share a deep respect for their work, and for the many viewers who patronize it.

In the field of comedy and impersonation, **Willie Nepomuceno** sets the standard that others try to measure up to.

While many comedians smugly try to wing it, Willie carefully creates each of his memorable impersonations of famous and infamous politicians and celebrities with painstaking preparation and an unerring eye for telling details.

**NEPOMUCENO. Unerring portraits.**

**GARCIA. Shares his stellar clout.**

**CAROLINO. Committed films.**

## Satirical mimicry

That's why it's our loss that his last regular show, "Ispup," has bowed out of the TV screen. It's the height of irony that lesser comics are seen all over the TV spectrum, while Willie doesn't have a regular showcase for his well-honed gift for satirical mimicry.

We trust that, starting next year, a canny and savvy producer will give Willie a new TV show where he can again regale us with his unerring comic portraits of the rich and famous, and the bitchy and infamous.

Meanwhile, we'll just have to content ourselves with replays and reruns of Willie's past triumphs on the tube, which have set a dauntingly high mark for other comedians to aspire to.

From the world of full-length films, our Christmas Star is octogenarian **Eddie Garcia**—not because he's stayed on top for so long, although that's a feat also worth celebrating—but because he's so generously shared his stellar clout, talent and experience to so many low-budget projects that may not have reached the screen without him.

## Scenes

Currently, Eddie is shooting scenes for one of the 10 finalist entries to the first Cinemalaya festival, which unreels at the CCP early next year. And in a couple of weeks' time, he's flying to the States to act in a Fil-Am production, "Wrinkles," that also has Lou Diamond Phillips and Tommy Abuel in its stellar cast.

New and alternative filmmakers love Eddie because he is supportive of their efforts, even if they can give him only a modest honorarium. Other senior stars should be as generous with their time and talent as Eddie is, so our new filmmakers are heartened to come up with their very best first efforts.

Our third bright light in the otherwise dark entertainment sky has been generated by the Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (Filscap). For years now, Filscap has worked heard to get royalties for its members when their songs are used in the media.

## Contributions

Finally, let's thank **Ditsi Carolino** for her own selflessly significant contributions, this time in the field of the Filipino documentary. Ditsi's films are of the engaged, committed sort, but this hasn't prevented them from being full of emotion and piercing insights into the human condition.

An award-winner both here and abroad, Ditsi shows the way for other young filmmakers to also distill a vision for themselves, and never give up, no matter how daunting the odds—until that vision is beautifully, meaningfully realized.

# 'Closer' takes Mike Nichols back to familiar ground

LOS ANGELES—An inability to look at dead bodies killed off Mike Nichols' hopes of training as a psychiatrist 50 years ago, but did nothing to diminish his fascination with marriage, mating and the games people play.

His departure from medical school turned out not only to be psychiatry's loss, but a gain for stage and screen as Nichols the director probed the subject time and again, posing questions rather than answers and, in the process, becoming one of the most revered filmmakers of his day.

"Finding the person for you is the great adventure. It is inexhaustibly interesting. It is what life is made of," Nichols, 73, told Reuters.

**LAW AND ROBERTS. Star in film version of Patrick Marber's play.**

## Bleak view

His latest movie, "Closer," finds Nichols back on familiar territory, and is being likened to "Carnal Knowledge" (1971) both for its sexuality and its bleak view of human relationships.

A film version of the acclaimed 1997 stage play by Britain's Patrick Marber, "Closer" is the intertwined tale of two men and two women (Jude Law, Clive Owen, Julia Roberts and Natalie Portman) who meet, fall in love, betray each other and ultimately destroy themselves.

Sometimes witty, often raw, and relentlessly ambiguous, it is what Marber calls a love story, albeit one that goes wrong, and what Nichols sees as an ode to "the importance of lying."

"'Closer' is about the dangers of closeness. Do you have a right to know what is in the other person's head? In my experience, happiness comes from being together, but always maintaining enough separateness," Nichols said.

## Breaking taboos

Despite critically acclaimed performances from all four actors, "Closer" is no crowd pleaser. For Nichols, winning over the audience is hardly the point at this stage in a career founded on taking risks and breaking taboos.

"If you are here just to please the audience, it is over already. You've got to tell the story that you want to tell, and hope that there are enough people who are interested in that story to make it worthwhile," he said.

*(To be concluded)*

# What have geese got to do with Christmas?

From page A4-1

are the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The 10 lords a-spying is easy enough to figure out. They are The 10 Commandments. The 11 pipers piping are the 11 faithful apostles save Judas. The 12 drummers drumming are the 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So, this is your Christmas history lesson for the season. Next time you wonder about those lyrics, you will appreciate their ambiguity, and think back how exciting it was to sing the carol then because of its significance. It certainly made Catholics "in the know" merry in *olde* English!

# Orlina sculpture joins Prince Andrew's collection

By Nestor U. Torre

SCULPTOR Ramon Orlina has received plaudits abroad for his beautiful commissioned works and winning pieces in international art tilts.

Here at home, his striking glass sculptures are valued by collectors, and awards statuettes made by him are prized by winners of national competitions.

Recently, another feather was added to Orlina's cap when he was commissioned to create a striking sculptural memento for the United Kingdom's Prince Andrew.

## Three-day visit

HRH The Duke of York flew in earlier this month for a three-day visit to promote British trade and industry.

Last Dec. 3, he officially launched the New Discovery 3 Land Rover, which was flown in from Singapore for the signal occasion.

The prince's hosts had feared that the event would be rained out because super-typhoon "Yoyong" threatened to unleash its wrath on the country that very day. Fortuitously, it changed course and weakened.

So, at 11 that surprisingly sunny morning, Prince Andrew arrived at the Jaguar showroom on ADB ave. in the Ortigas business complex in Pasig City, and briskly cut the ribbon and grandly unveiled the New Discovery 3 (which, we learned, he himself drives in England).

As a token of appreciation, he was presented with Orlina's new glass sculpture. Since the prince loves playing golf, it was suggested to Orlina that his sculptural piece should be about the sport, and that it be titled "The Golfer."

Jaguar Car Phils. chairman and president Wellington Soong, who had commissioned the special artwork for Prince Andrew, described how the abstract piece suggested the form of a golfer:

Viewed from one angle, it presented the golfer in a back swing pose; seen from the side, it looked like the golfer had followed through.

## Intrigued

Prince Andrew was clearly intrigued and quite taken by the unique sculpture. He spent some minutes admiring the artwork, and at one point even tried to lift the 100-lb glass sculpture!

Upon being introduced to Orlina, the prince engaged the sculptor in lighthearted conversation. He flashed a grin at Paul Diamond, the British ambassador to the Philippines, pointed to the sculpture, and said, "You have to get this to me."

Later, he was heard to comment that he had already decided on a place for the sculpture in his new abode.

He thanked Orlina once more, and moved on to his next official activity. Mr. Soong was pleased at the prince's beaming acceptance of his special gift, and of course Orlina was delighted that his latest work would now be part of the collection of yet another international VIP.

## Exhibits

This has been a good year for the ace Filipino glass sculptor, whose unique works have been acclaimed both here and abroad. He has mounted exhibits in various countries, is busy with commissioned works, has represented the Philippines in international arts fora, and has devoted his time and energy to a number of artistic causes and religious activities.

In 2005, Orlina embarks on a new artistic activity, as executive producer of Ryan Cayabyab's new religious musical, "Mapagpalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay," at the CCP Little Theater. From sculpture to theater may seem like a huge leap, but trust Ramon Orlina to manage it with zest and aplomb!

HRH The Duke of York Prince Andrew (second from left) views glass sculpture with Orlina, Lay Ann Orlina, Wellington Soong and Maureen Soong. PHOTO BY PATRICK UY

# *Wrong values in advertising*

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero

BE beautiful. Be white—or just *be mestiza* or *mestizo*. You have dark skin or worse—gasp!—dark underarms? That's a no-no! Try our product: It will make you white all over— or something to that effect. Then, you'll find true love!

These are some of the blandishments of the high-powered advertising industry. The influence of advertisements on the buying public came under scrutiny recently in "Sining Taktakan," a monthly forum of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Among the panelists were advertising executives Russel Molina and Ma. Rita Arenas of Harrison Communications. Ed Cabagnot, head of the CCP's Film Division, served as emcee.

One student with a sense of history traced this display of colonial mentality in advertising to Doña Victorina, the character in Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" who wanted to be European and, therefore, white.

## White is beautiful

"Up to now, *ang* consumer values *sa Pilipinas ay maging puti ka,*" he added. "*Sa karamihan ng Pinoy,* white is beautiful."

Molina said ad agencies cater to market demands. For some reason, *gustong pumuti ng Pinoy.* He added: "In the US, *baligtad. Gusto nilang magpa-itim,* they go for tanned skin. So, we offer an option: *Gusto mong magpaputi?*"

Arenas injected a nationalist note into the discussion:

"We don't need Caucasians to tell us what's OK. If it's good for you, that's the most important stamp of approval. As consumers, we have to think carefully about the brand."

Cabagnot reinforced this stand: "The power is with you to buy the product or not. It's the same with a movie, you have the power to watch it or not."

He added, "If there's something irritating in advertising, don't patronize it." Then, he asked the students: "Do you exercise your right?"

# Patrick Garcia wants to be known for his performances

By Jocelyn Valle

PATRICK Garcia, who started his career in show business as a commercial model and as mainstay in the youth-oriented show, "Ang TV" at age eight, doesn't want to rely on his boyish good looks. He wants to build a good reputation.

## Public apology

That's why he has accepted the public apology issued by policemen who accused him of possessing illegal drugs. "This will clear my name," he declares.

The 23-year-old actor enjoys simple things like playing computer games in the condo unit in Ortigas that he shares with his mother and siblings. He also has condo units in Baguio and in Quezon City, which he rents out.

Patrick keeps his private life private. The only time his love life was talked about was when he was linked to Sandara Park when he was still in a relationship with commercial model Bianca King.

It started when Sandara was still a contestant on "Star Circle Quest," and she admitted that she had a crush on the matinee idol. He even joined a race-to-Sandara's-heart type of episode for the defunct "Victim Undercover" in Korea, and played the third party in the then budding love team of Sandara and "SCQ" winner Hero Angeles.

"After that, I didn't want to be associated with Sandara anymore because I didn't want to be accused of riding on her popularity," he avers.

## Entry

As for Bianca, Patrick shares that she's been out of his life for the last five months. He makes it clear that her entry into show business wasn't a factor in their split-up. "I'm happy for her," he says of his ex, who plays Aviona in "Mulawin."

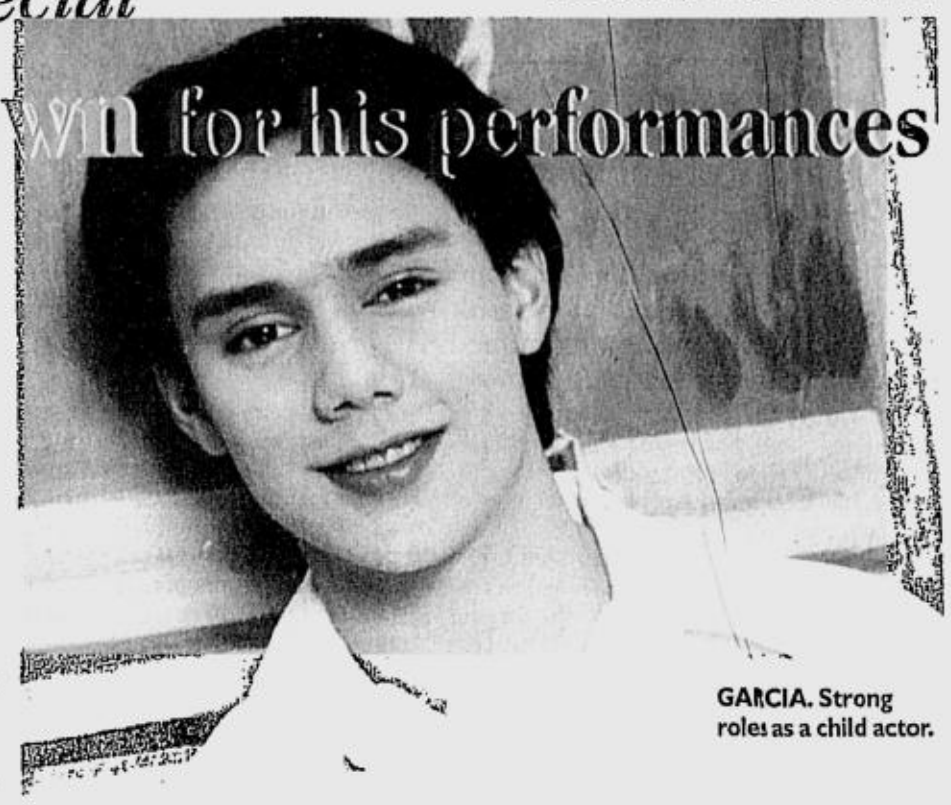
Patrick would rather be known for his performances. For instance, he had strong roles as a child actor in movies like "Separada," "Madrasta" and "Batang PX," and as a teenager in the series, "Tabing Ilog."

He was last seen as bad boy Tyrone on the defunct afternoon soap, "Mangarap Ka," with Piolo Pascual and Angelica Panganiban.

## Good son

He graces the big screen once again in "Mano Po 3: My Love," where he plays Stephen Yang, the good son of central characters Lilia (Vilma Santos) and Paul (Jay Manalo).

Patrick has worked with Christopher in 2000's "Sugatang Puso," but this is his first time to act with Vilma. "It was great to work with her," he gushes. "She was very supportive, absolutely no prima donna airs on the set. In between takes, she'd make an effort to make us feel at ease with her."



GARCIA. Strong roles as a child actor.

"I hear it up there!"

"No! It came from over there!"

The strictest of cinema tests show: the Shang Cineplex is by far the Best Cinema in the Philippines. Excellent acoustics and the latest Dolby Digital surround EX system make sound so clear, so crisp, it totally envelops your senses.

*Rated Best Cinemas in the Philippines based on overall design and recent tests conducted after its completion by Dar J. Quintas, Acoustics and Audio engineering Consultant; Chairman: Phil. Section, AES Int'l; Phil Member: IIAV, ASA.

"It's right here beside us!"

"Guys! It's all around."

Shangri-La Plaza

SHANG CINEPLEX

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# SATURDAY Special

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# Matt LeBlanc, Halle Berry share their favorite Yuletide memories

**FROM *Anjanette Tiongson*: "Please feature some Christmas stories involving my favorite stars, Matt LeBlanc, Oprah Winfrey and other celebrities."**

## SHOW BIZ Q&A

*Rito P. Asilo*

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### New toy

"I would peel off the tape very carefully, and marvel at my new toy. I'd take it out of the box, put it together, play with it, carefully disassemble, re-wrap, then put it back under the Christmas tree—and my mother *never* knew!"

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She recalls: "It was one of the most horrific days of my young life! To this day, that memory still cracks me up."

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### Sense of humor

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These days, Whitney's rude marital awakening has been replaced by a sweeter, more welcome memory:

When the talented but troubled diva recorded the track, "The Little Drummer Boy," for her Christmas album, "One Wish—The Holiday Album," daughter Bobbi Kristina sang a duet with her. Like mother, like daughter!

### Moving experience

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Crawford remembers: "I sat alone for three hours inside a church in Gethsemane, and I felt a wonderful, overpowering strength, an overwhelming sense of meaning in that room!

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# Gen Rosso gives musical expression to Focolare Movement's loving spirit

**By Nestor U. Torre**

OUR recent trip to Italy introduced us to the Focolare Movement's signature performing troupe, Gen Rosso. The religious singing and dancing group is unique because it's popular not only in religious circles, but also with pop entertainment audiences.

When we visited the Movement's central "city" of Lopiano, we were fortunate to be able to visit Gen Rosso's studios, where we interacted with some of its members, one of them Filipino.

We were struck by the members' combination of youth, spirituality, musicality and great enthusiasm for their musical mission. We were told that rehearsing and performing with Gen Rosso were really tough, but the members we talked to didn't seem to mind at all.

### Spiritual message

In fact, they seemed to think, speak, breathe and live Gen Rosso, grateful for the group's popularity, which assured the extensive dissemination of the Movement's spiritual message.

The good news is that Gen Rosso's latest production, "Streetlight," may be performed in different parts of the Philippines next year.

So, local audiences will be able to thrill to the depth and dynamism of this multi-racial group, and enjoy the ensemble performances of Paul Kisyaba, Tomeki Mikusinski, Adelson Reis De Olivera, Marcos Beltramin, Charles Okereki, Ciro Ercolanese, Mathias Awunang, Jerry Boudreau, Juan Martin Echevery, and Filipinos like Dennis Ng and Rommel Bartolo.

### Overnight success

Incidentally, Rommel and Bong Pesito are credited with the show's choreography, and Pesito also worked on the musical arrangements.

Talking to members of the group at Lopiano, we learned that Gen Rosso wasn't an overnight success. In fact, it's been around since the '60s (with different members, of course).

The '60s saw the rise of the "New Generation" that found itself caught in a maelstrom of protest and revolution. That's how Gen Rosso got its name—from a red drum ("rosso" in Italian) played by a new gen-eration.

The members of the first group began touring Italy in a Volkswagen van packed with their instruments. They were heartened by the great reception they got everywhere, and this made them realize that they could become a potent evangelizing force that would help spread the Focolare Movement's spirit of love and altruistic service worldwide.

### Main goal

The Gen Rosso members agree: "The group has become what it is today, thanks to Focolare's founder, Chiara Lubich. Her ideas have deeply influenced Gen Rosso's main goal: To contribute to a more livable and united world through performing."

This certainly comes through in the group's song lyrics. In addition, the movement's concepts come alive in the everyday lives of the troupe's singers, dancers, musicians and technicians.

Gen Rosso's popularity grew in the '70s and '80s. It went through its rock opera phase, pioneering in the format that would later become a show biz phenomenon. (Interested in Focolare? Call 714-2951.) *(To be concluded)*

SIGNATURE performing group combines youth, spirituality, musicality and great enthusiasm.

MULTI-RACIAL popular band may visit the Philippines next year with their touring show, "Streetlight."

# *Indie filmmaking is 'in' these days*

**By Rica Arevalo**

BEING an independent filmmaker is "in" these days. Because of the dwindling output of mainstream productions, there are a lot of indie films making their entry into the theatrical circuit.

This year, films like "Santa Santita" and "Minsan Pa" were produced outside of the mainstream. Yes, they are critically acclaimed and well-crafted by our finest directors, but they tried hard to be different from the more mediocre products of Philippine cinema.

RED. Securing funding from independent producers.

### Latest documentary

Recently, Ditsi Carolino premiered her latest documentary, "Bunso," at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), and the film was also well received at its UP Film Institute screenings.

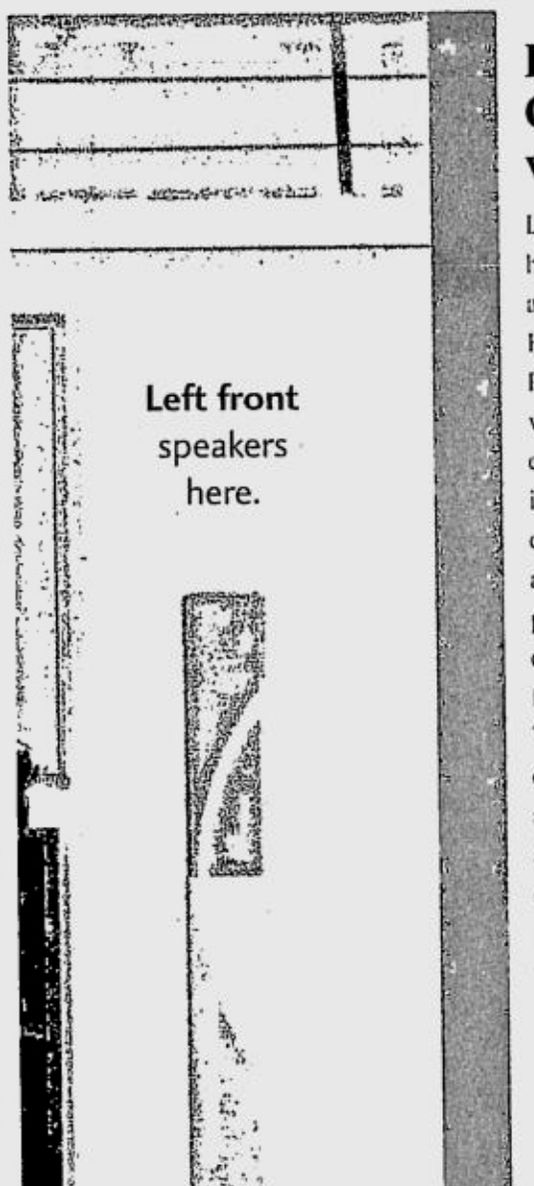
Ditsi continues her winning streak as one of the world's best documentary filmmakers. She has been receiving invitations from all over to screen her latest film about children in prison. Her goal is for President GMA to fast-track and sign a comprehensive juvenile justice bill.

Ditsi is currently doing preproduction work for two new documentaries: One on the Dulangan Manobo tribe's struggle for land in Kulawan Valley, Sultan Kuldarat, and another on children caught in the conflict in Maguindanao. (Email undergroundpictures@yahoo.com for "Bunso" screenings).

### Digital feature

More heartening developments: Cannes winner Raymond Red is preparing his digital feature, "Kamera Obskura." He is securing partnership

INDIE/ A5-2



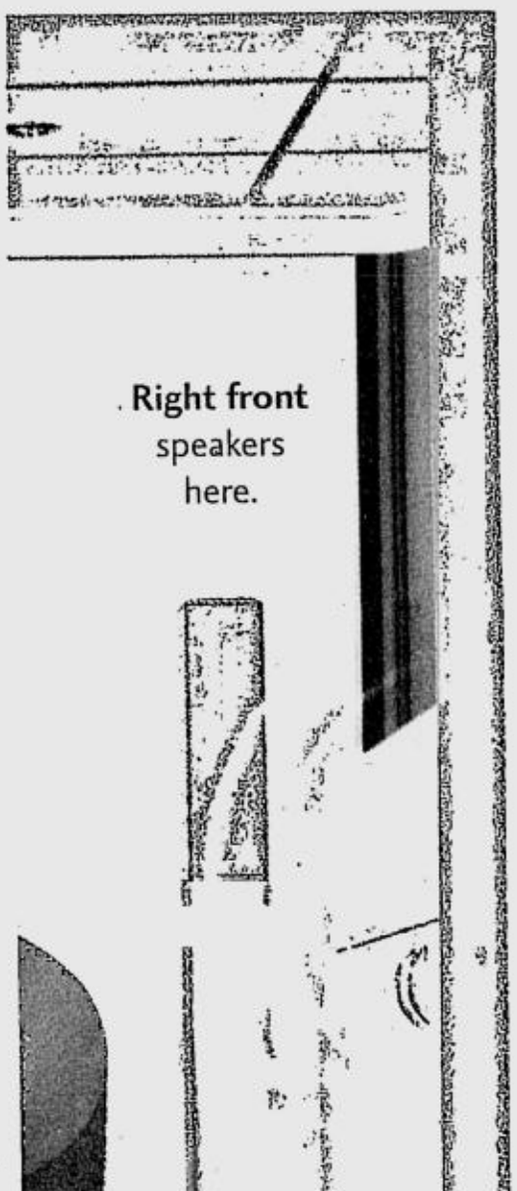

## LG Wireless Home Cinema garners 5 stars with Widescreen Review

LG Electronics scored another technology highlight when Widescreen Review Magazine awarded 5 stars to the company's Wireless Home Cinema System. "Widescreen Review®" is intended for both the casual viewer and the optical disc home theatre enthusiast. Both the print edition and interactive webzine edition of the magazine caters to the home theatre enthusiast with an appreciation for widescreen motion pictures presented on home formats like DVD in their original aspect ratio composition as produced for theatrical exhibition. The reviews of Widescreen Review Magazine is meant to educate readers as to component selection and system setup considerations that are aimed at "the best that it can be" home theatre experience. 5 stars, which was given to the LG Wireless Home Cinema System represents the highest accolade the magazine rewards products, with technical excellence in presentation as its primary concern.

"Widescreen Review" is designed to inform and enlighten as it explores the world of widescreen visuals and stereophonic surround sound and multichannel 5.1-format discrete digital surround delivered through the DVD and HDTV mediums.

LG Wireless Home Cinema System is a unique multifunctional home entertainment system in one slim and easy package, with five speakers and a subwoofer to provide an unparalleled 5.1 channel surround sound. While other brands are trying to copy the wireless technology, they can only do well with either an FM Transmitter or Infrared, which has very low frequency thus having too many signal interference or noise.

Stylish and sleek, the LG Wireless Home Cinema's speakers deliver crisp and interference FREE sound even when placed 10 meters apart using a similar technology employed by mobile phones known as Bluetooth. Using a 2.4 GHZ digital wireless

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# SATURDAY special

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Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

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Talking to members of the group at Lopiano, we learned that Gen Rosso wasn't an overnight success. In fact, it's been around since the '60s (with different members, of course).

The '60s saw the rise of the "New Generation" that found itself caught in a maelstrom of protest and revolution. That's how Gen Rosso got its name—from a red drum ("rosso" in Italian) played by a new gen-eration.

The members of the first group began touring Italy in a Volkswagen van packed with their instruments. They were heartened by the great reception they got everywhere, and this made them realize that they could become a potent evangelizing force that would help spread the Focolare Movement's spirit of love and altruistic service worldwide.

### Main goal

The Gen Rosso members agree: "The group has become what it is today, thanks to Focolare's founder, Chiara Lubich. Her ideas have deeply influenced Gen Rosso's main goal: To contribute to a more livable and united world through performing."

This certainly comes through in the group's song lyrics. In addition, the movement's concepts come alive in the everyday lives of the troupe's singers, dancers, musicians and technicians.

Gen Rosso's popularity grew in the '70s and '80s. It went through its rock opera phase, pioneering in the format that would later become a show biz phenomenon. (Interested in Focolare? Call 714-2951.) *(To be concluded)*

SIGNATURE performing group combines youth, spirituality, musicality and great enthusiasm.

MULTI-RACIAL popular band may visit the Philippines next year with their touring show, "Streetlight."

# *Indie filmmaking is 'in' these days*

**By Rica Arevalo**

BEING an independent filmmaker is "in" these days. Because of the dwindling output of mainstream productions, there are a lot of indie films making their entry into the theatrical circuit.

This year, films like "Santa Santita" and "Minsan Pa" were produced outside of the mainstream. Yes, they are critically acclaimed and well-crafted by our finest directors, but they tried hard to be different from the more mediocre products of Philippine cinema.

RED. Securing funding from independent producers.

### Latest documentary

Recently, Ditsi Carolino premiered her latest documentary, "Bunso," at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), and the film was also well received at its UP Film Institute screenings.

Ditsi continues her winning streak as one of the world's best documentary filmmakers. She has been receiving invitations from all over to screen her latest film about children in prison. Her goal is for President GMA to fast-track and sign a comprehensive juvenile justice bill.

Ditsi is currently doing preproduction work for two new documentaries: One on the Dulangan Manobo tribe's struggle for land in Kulawan Valley, Sultan Kuldarat, and another on children caught in the conflict in Maguindanao. (Email undergroundpictures@yahoo.com for "Bunso" screenings).

### Digital feature

More heartening developments: Cannes winner Raymond Red is preparing his digital feature, "Kamera Obskura." He is securing partnership

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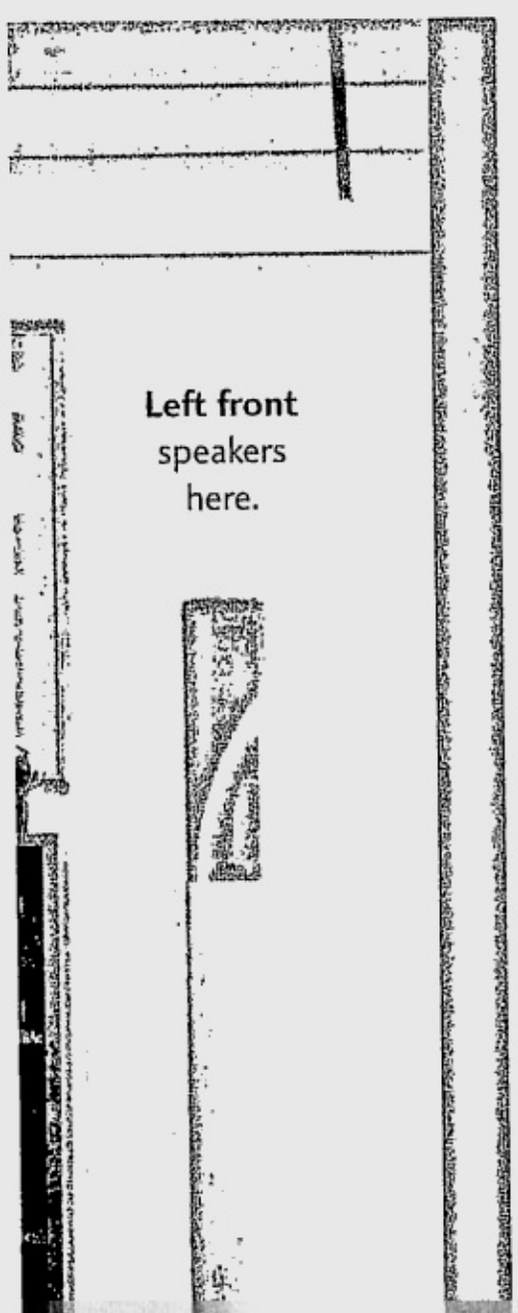


## LG Wireless Home Cinema garners 5 stars with Widescreen Review

LG Electronics scored another technology highlight when Widescreen Review Magazine awarded 5 stars to the company's Wireless Home Cinema System. "Widescreen Review®" is intended for both the casual viewer and the optical disc home theatre enthusiast. Both the print edition and interactive webzine edition of the magazine caters to the home theatre enthusiast with an appreciation for widescreen motion pictures presented on home formats like DVD in their original aspect ratio composition as produced for theatrical exhibition. The reviews of Widescreen Review Magazine is meant to educate readers as to component selection and system setup considerations that are aimed at "the best that it can be" home theatre experience. 5 stars, which was given to the LG Wireless Home Cinema System represents the highest accolade the magazine rewards products, with technical excellence in presentation as its primary concern.

"Widescreen Review" is designed to inform and enlighten as it explores the world of widescreen visuals and stereophonic surround sound and multichannel 5.1-format discrete digital surround delivered through the DVD and HDTV mediums.

LG Wireless Home Cinema System is a unique multifunctional home entertainment system in one slim and easy package, with five speakers and a subwoofer to provide an unparalleled 5.1 channel surround sound. While other brands are trying to copy the wireless technology, they can only do well with either an FM Transmitter or Infrared, which has very low frequency thus having too many signal interference or noise.

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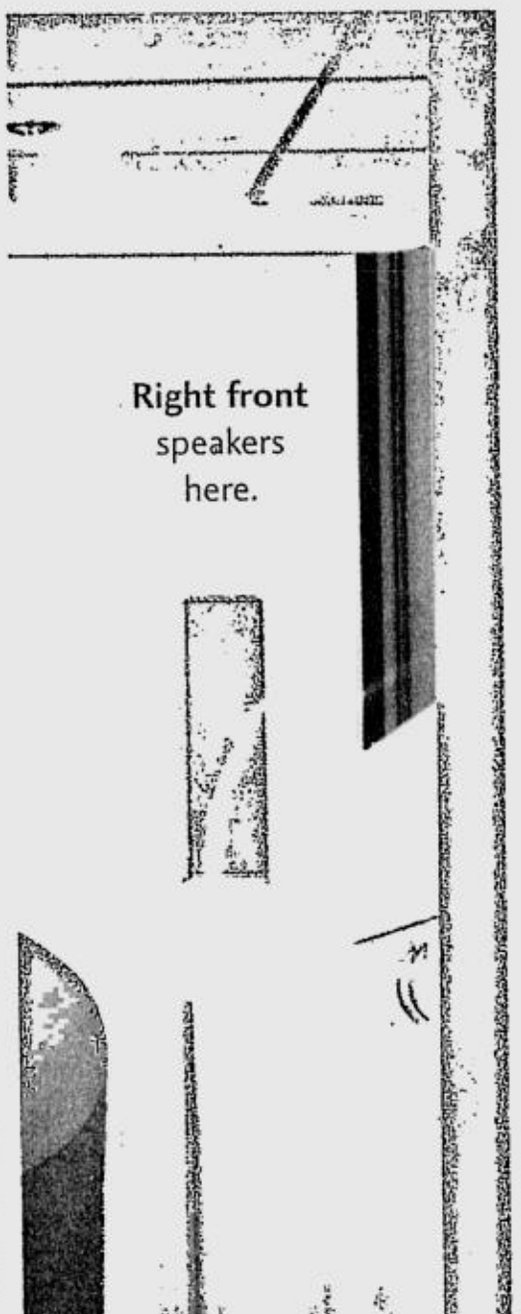



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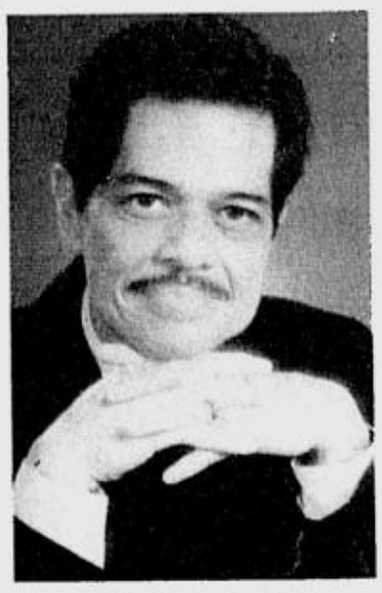

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ENERGY/ A5-3

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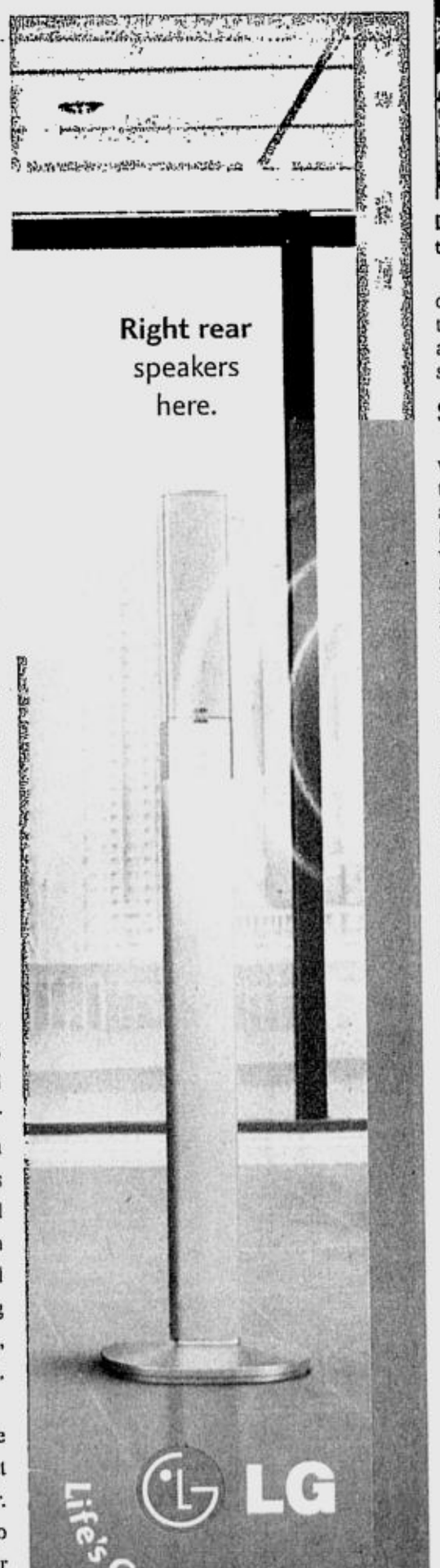


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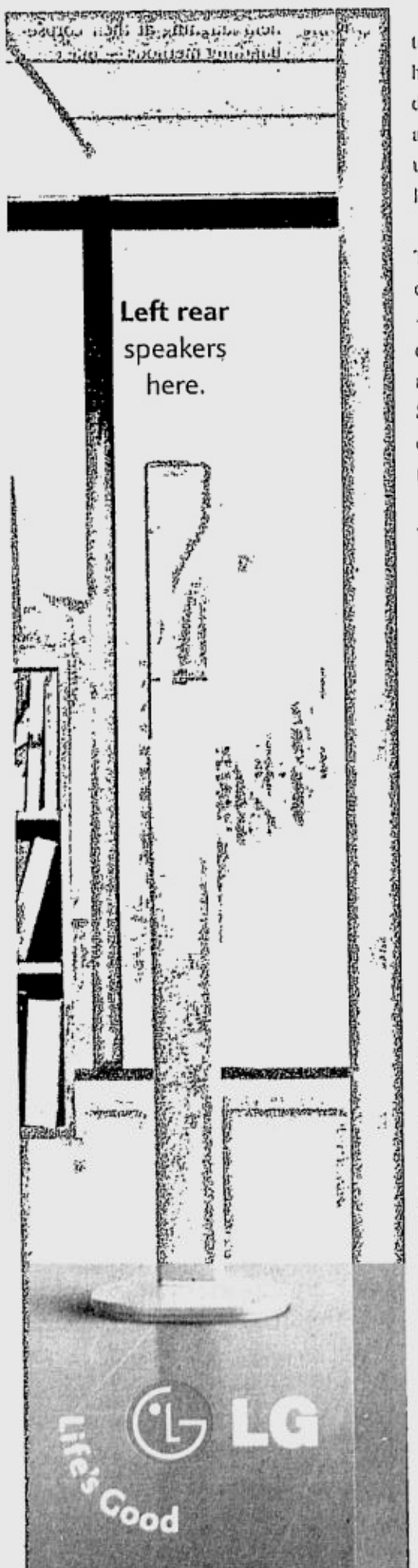


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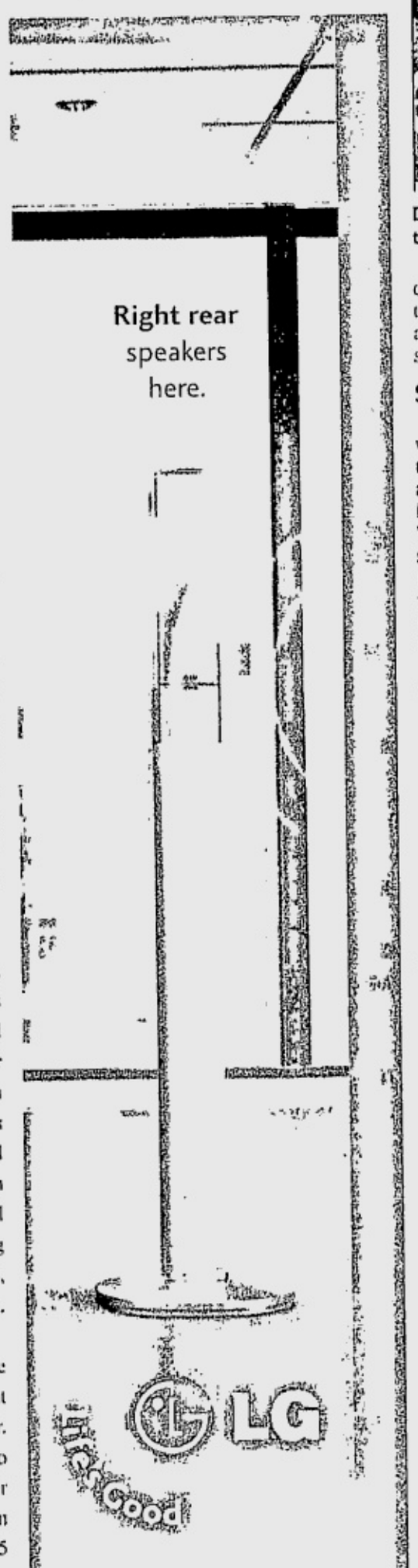


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Digital leader LG Electronics reinvents home entertainment with the introduction of its revolutionary XD™ Engine technology. The XD™ Engine is the future's revolution in picture quality, a unique LG Electronics picture enhancement technology to create digital reality. With the XD™ Engine pictures has a more advanced image processing Base Coordinator to deliver brighter images, displaying pictures that are more accurate, brighter and no less than perfect.

The XD™ Engine also enhances the Real Cinema feature of the Plasma TV to avoid distortion, while Pixel Works transforms an analog image with low resolution into a high resolution HD image.

The Super Detailer that the XD™ Engine supports will detect and realize the most proper shade ratio by analyzing the image brightness continuously. The optimized shade ratio enables the distinction between the boundaries of images and maximizes the brightness, and therefore provides a higher detailed and more precise image.

With the XD™ Engine, the Noise Buster filters out the "noise" of an image with a digital comb filter, while emphasizing only the image signals. It removes the image noise completely by analyzing the data from both time and space changes, preventing the overlapping of screens or blurred screens.

And of course, True Color technology is further enhanced with the XD™ Engine to express life-like and natural colors more vividly, producing images so real, you might feel like you're being dragged into the screen.

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The Wireless Home Cinema System has multi-format compatibility --- DVD video/audio, jpeg viewer, mp3, CD digital audio, Kodak picture, CD recordable/rewritable, DVD-RW/+RW, Windows Media Audio and equipped with progressive scan and digital tuning.

These wireless breakthroughs from LG Electronics are available in two models: the LH-W5100A and DA-W6100A.

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ADVT.

# Beyoncé game for Bollywood

**KNOWLES. Ready to sing and dance in Hindi films.**

BOMBAY—Beyoncé Knowles is ready to shake a leg in Bollywood films, or even do an "item number," the current sensual song and dance rage in the Hindi formulaic film industry, a report said recently.

The regrouped member of hit band, Destiny's Child, Beyoncé said she was a fan of Bollywood movies and would consider doing an Indian film.

"Why not? Indian films are so colorful," the pop star said in an interview with the Times of India.

"It can be fun to do a film like that at least once. Given a chance, I would love to do an Indian film," she said.

## Indian hits

The multiple Grammy winner for her 2003 solo debut, "Dangerously in Love," said she had seen some Indian hits such as "Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Ghum" (Sometimes Joy, Sometimes Sorrow) starring legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan and superstar Shahrukh Khan, the Oscar-nominated film, "Lagaan" (Tax), and "Devdas" (Pining Lover).

"I loved 'Devdas.' The actress (Aishwarya Rai) was amazing. I cried toward the end of the film," Beyoncé said.

"Devdas" is a story of an alcoholic lover who pines for his childhood love and eventually dies.

Many Bollywood producers are wooing foreigners and celebrity singers to perform the sensual "item numbers" in Hindi films.

Established pop stars who have already performed in Bollywood films include Tata Young in the recent hit, "Dhoom," and Samantha Fox. *AFP*

# *More aggressive pranks in 'When Hidden Cameras Attack'*

**By Noelani Torre**

GAG, practical joke, and hidden-camera shows have been part of our usual TV fare ever since cameras got smaller, and pranksters discovered that they could get away with almost anything. The fact that they don't show signs of disappearing also tells us that people have an appetite for this sort of thing.

Television is a highly artificializing medium, and the honest reactions of the poor dupes on whom the jokes are played are refreshing. Remember "Candid Camera"? That show gave us more than a few good laughs when we were growing up.

Nowadays, however, the gag show has been undergoing modifications. The basic structure remains the same — no use fixing something if it ain't broke, after all — but the jokes have become more elaborate and just a bit nastier. One of these younger, more aggressive shows is Fox's "When Hidden Cameras Attack."

## Suspicious

Claiming to feature "the world's nastiest pranks," it's still airing in this region's Star World, though the show has already been shelved. This Canadian show is no charming hidden-camera program, but a grittier, more hard-edged show that has to contend with suspicious, urban Americans.

The title itself is revealing — no cheery "Just Kidding!" sentiment here, the emphasis is more on the force and violence inherent in the word "attack."

In one episode, for example, the gag involved a bed and mattress shop, actors pretending to be a couple bent on having sex in public, actors pretending to be the outraged public, and of course, the victims — in this case, the shop's proprietors.

It doesn't sound particularly nasty at first, but then the victims had accepted the pseudo couple's twin bribes of sex and money for the use of their shop's merchandise. We felt a little sorry for the poor slobs, embarrassed to their toes with every nuance of their *faux pas* caught on tape.

## Dead grandmother

In another episode, the gag involved a supposedly dead grandmother, a harried grandson, and a bewildered limousine driver finding himself strapping a corpse (actually, a dummy) on top of his car.

These guys were really harried—but at least they weren't made to look stupid! And, we have to admit that we couldn't help laughing at their corpse-handling methods — one even tied Nanna upright, rocking chair and all, on the car roof!

A regular on the show was a certain comedian they referred to as Doug, who came up with various gags of his own. One segment had him posing as a liver transplant patient making the rounds of the bars in his hospital gown and attached IV.

Apparently fresh from the operating table, he wanted a couple of drinks in order to "try out" his new liver. They hid the camera in his glasses, but most of the bars had murky lighting, so the images weren't clear.

## Lawsuits

It was interesting to see the bartenders' reactions though—most of them refused to serve him, fearing lawsuits and the like.

If the show were something like its abovementioned Canadian counterpart, they'd have brought him to the hospital, or called the authorities instead of shutting the door and threatening him with litigation and bodily harm. It must be a culture-specific thing.

"When Hidden Cameras Attack" was, according to our sources, "shelved because the network (Fox) was suffering a backlash following some exploitative reality specials."

# Energy and technological chutzpah . . .

From page A5-2

were wisely kept to a minimum. This is the Discovery Channel, after all, *not* the FOX network.

The Monster Garage team varies from episode to episode and monster to monster, though some people make more than one appearance.

## Team

This particular team was composed of Jesse, a custom-bike designer; Tom Betar, the senior master tech of a New York Ford dealership; Steve Bonge, a classic customizer; Mike Desmond, MAD Machines' graphic artist and designer; Louis Di Raimondo, the hotdog cart's owner; Dan Ferrazzano, a mechanic with his own service center; Pete Finlan, Hot Dog Designs' artist; motorcycle builder Indian Larry; and street-rod fabricator Dave Tucci.

If you've noticed, all of the members are men. We're not sure if they've ever had women members before, but we do know that they've done some episodes with an all-female team. Women mechanics are probably not as numerous or as established as the men.

What makes this show different from others of its kind, aside from the out of the box thinking when it comes to vehicular choices, is the energy and sheer techie chutzpah that the people in it bring.

We may not be car lovers, but we found ourselves getting infected with their enthusiasm for their work—and their craving for speed!

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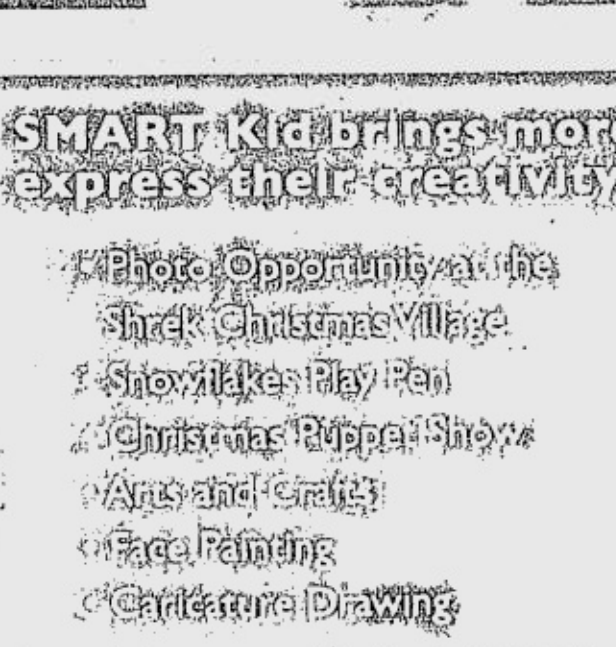


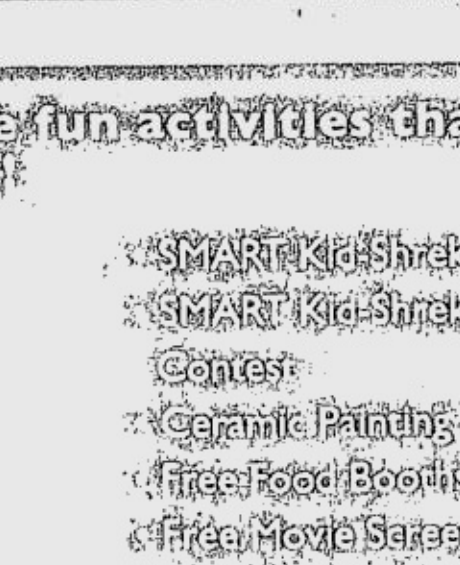

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

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B1

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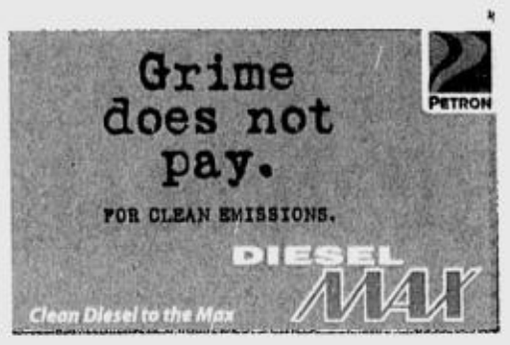



# Gov't agencies ordered to hike fees

By Michelle V. Remo

**THE DEPARTMENTS of finance and budget have directed government agencies to start raising fees and charges to begin fulfilling the government's resolve to raise more revenue through administrative measures.**

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the two departments have issued a joint circular requiring line agencies and state-owned companies to increase their fees and charges in compliance with recently issued EO 197.

The DOF and the DBM said in the circular that the increase in fees and charges was part of efforts of the cash-starved government to improve revenue collection.

Amatong failed to give a new estimate for the additional revenue to be generated from the increase in fees and charges pending the submission of government agencies and state-owned companies of their proposals on the amount of adjustments they plan to impose.

The DOF earlier estimated that raising those fees and charges could generate as much as P5.7 billion a year.

The additional revenue from the increase in fees and charges is included in the target of raising P50 billion from administrative measures. Other measures include the computerization of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, and the privatization of the assets of cash-strapped National Power Corp.

The DOF and the DBM issued the circular as head agencies of the Presidential Task Force on Fees and Charges. The DOF secretary acts as the chair, while the DBM secretary is the co-chair.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Land Registration Authority (LRA), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Air Transportation Office (ATO), and the Bureau of Customs are some of the government's biggest revenue earners and are among the agencies whose fees and charges the DOF and the DBM wanted raised.

The BOC, for example, is expected to raise the fees imposed on the release of import licenses; while the LRA will increase the fees for the transfer of land titles. The ATO may soon collect higher fees for the parking of airplanes; while the DFA may raise the rates for passport issuances.

The DOF and the DBM also said the amount of increase in fees and charges should cover the increase in the cost of their operating expenses.

In 2003, the government generated P22.97 billion from fees and charges. This year, the government hopes to collect P23.5 billion.

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.22 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 18, 2004

¥ 104.49 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 18, 2004

GOLD: $438.60-439.10
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 18, 2004

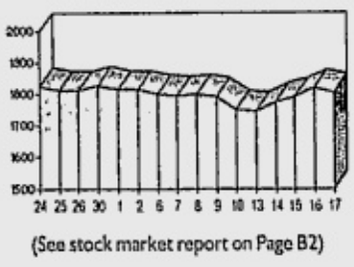
### STOCK MARKET

**Shares close 0.8% lower**

SHARE prices closed 0.8 percent lower yesterday as investors took profits after a three-day rally, dealers said.

They said Congress's passage of a bill imposing higher taxes on liquor and tobacco products is a welcome development as this will raise state revenues.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX




(See stock market report on Page B2)

However, it remains uncertain whether this measure is enough to avoid a looming downgrade of the country's sovereign credit ratings because of concerns over the country's huge debt burden.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 14.49 points to 1,806.33 after trading between 1,806.04 and 1,822.76.

Volume turnover totaled 720.5 million shares worth P641.04 million, from 967.95 million shares worth P881.8 million on Thursday.

The broader all-shares index fell 5:70 points to 1,152.89.

Losers beat gainers 39 to 28, with 43 stocks unchanged.

"Profit-taking has set in for some issues, but short-term players are taking this opportunity to shift their bets to second-tier stocks," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone was the most actively traded stock, down P30 at P1,305.

SM Prime Holdings was up 20 centavos at P2.60, while Bank of the Philippine Islands ended unchanged at P51.50.

Ayala Corp. was steady at P6.70, while unit Ayala Land fell 20 centavos to P7.

First Philippine Holdings closed 50 centavos down to P30.50.

San Miguel saw its "A" shares remain unchanged at P57.50, while San Miguel "B" shares, available to foreign investors, were untraded, remaining at the previous close of P78.

*AFP*

# Mining firms set meet to woo investors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A LOCAL mining group is gathering global industry leaders in a forum in February to drum up renewed interest among investors.

According to the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, investor interest in the sector was rekindled when the Supreme Court issued a decision last Dec. 1 that again allowed foreign firms to extract minerals in the country.

CMP president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez yesterday told the INQUIRER that about 50 companies involved in mining were sent invitations last Wednesday and that a number of them replied that their officials would attend.

"The forum is by invitation only and we focused on foreign firms, investment houses and other entities whose decisions could prompt the inflow of investments to the country," Romualdez said.

He said the CMP chose the invitees for their ability to finance, develop and manage mining concerns, their willingness to invest, and

MINING/ B2

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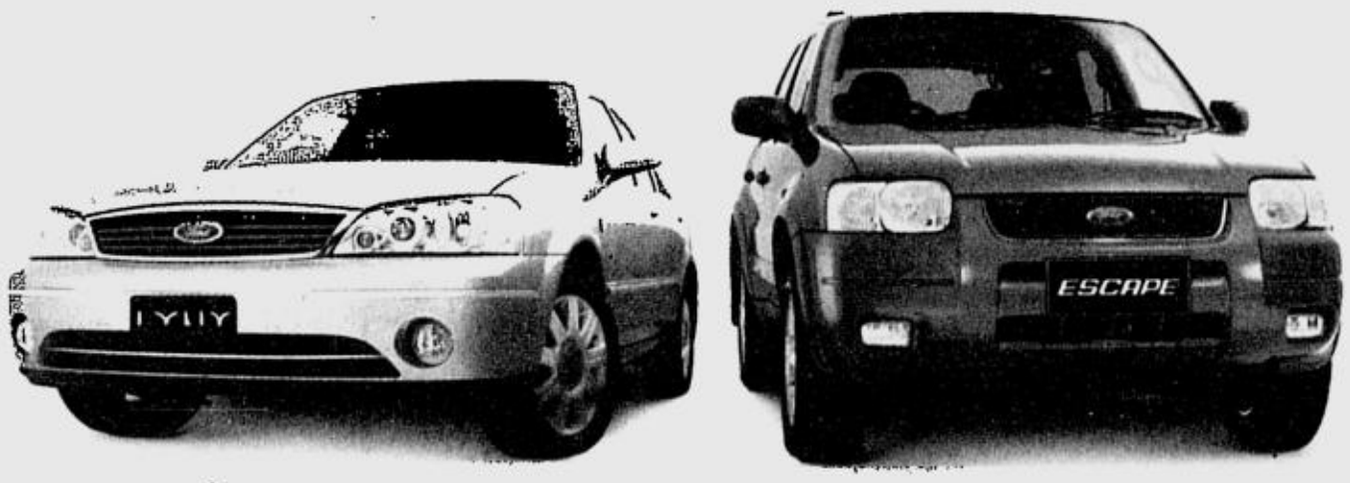


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# RP debt stock hit $55.6B in Sept.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' total foreign debt dropped 1.28 percent to $55.6 billion as of end-September, from $56.3 billion level as of end-June, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

The foreign debt level was also 0.98 percent lower than the $56.2 billion in September last year, said the BSP, which partly attributed the decline to the drop in the value of the Japanese yen against the US dollar.

The second biggest chunk of outstanding debt, or 27.3 percent, is denominated in Japanese yen, which means that a decline in its value will bring down the level of foreign debt in dollar terms.

On the other hand, about 52.9 percent is denominated in US dollars.

The BSP said that the public sector accounted for about two-thirds of the total debt stock or $37.3 billion, most of which are owed by the national government and the state-run National Power Corp.

Private sector debt, on the other hand, amounted to $18.3 billion, of which 25 percent was owed by the banks.

"The debt stock remains heavily biased towards medium to long-term (MLT) accounts which accounted for nearly 90 percent of total," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

These MLT accounts, which had maturities of more than one year, had a weighted average maturity of 17.1 years.

Public sector loans had a longer average maturity of 19.3 years, compared to private sector accounts which carried an average term of 11.2 years.

BSP governor Rafael Buenaventura said the country's creditor-profile remained well-diversified, with official creditors comprising 43.3 percent; foreign holders of bonds and notes, 28.9 percent; and, banks and other financial institutions, 21.3 percent.

The rest of the debts were in 15 other currencies, with the euro and special drawing rights (the unit used by the International Monetary Fund) representing 7.1 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.

For the third quarter alone, gross disbursements of MLT accounts amounted to more than $2.3 billion, of which public sector transactions accounted for 83.5 percent.

The fresh public sector borrowings, in turn, funded the government's budget shortfalls, various social and infrastructure projects as well as government bank's re-lending facilities.

Private sector projects comprised 16.5 percent of total MLT disbursements during the quarter. *With a report from Reuters*

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 17, 2004)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 20,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 24.5 | 25 | 24.5 | 25 | 1,500,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 52 | 52 | 51 | 51.5 | 1,172,800 |
| China Banking Corp. | 585 | 585 | 575 | 575 | 2,200 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 1,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 48 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 170,100 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 60,000 |
| International Exch. Bank | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 410,700 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 27 | 27 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 891,500 |
| Philippine National Bank | 23 | 23.25 | 23 | 23 | 19,400 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 6,300 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27 | 27.5 | 64,400 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 23 | 23.25 | 23 | 23.25 | 5,400 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| First Abacus Financial | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 3,000,000 |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3,000 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 20,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1810 | 1810 | 1810 | 1810 | 210 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 1,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.68 | 1.68 | 10,317,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 940 | 940 | 935 | 940 | 34,490 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.032 | 0.033 | 1,000,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 20,000 |
| Philippine Tel. Corp. | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.48 | 2.5 | 2,167,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1335 | 1335 | 1305 | 1305 | 84,500 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1,170,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 3,200,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 16.25 | 16.25 | 16 | 16 | 17,400 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25 | 25 | 640,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 2,210,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 12,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 139,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.18 | 1.2 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 161,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.37 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 1,220,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 28,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 1.98 | 2.04 | 1.98 | 2.02 | 1,324,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 6,500 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 160,200 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 35,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 57 | 57.5 | 57 | 57.5 | 29,200 |
| Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 220,600 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 1,310,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 1,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 7,469,000 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.3 | 0.32 | 0.3 | 0.32 | 330,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 31,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.52 | 1.54 | 1.52 | 1.54 | 2,458,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 10,000,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 3,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 22,340,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 300,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.22 | 0.225 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 1,100,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 100,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3.8 | 3.85 | 3.75 | 3.8 | 1,268,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 500,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 10,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 50,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 4.65 | 4.75 | 4.65 | 4.7 | 1,811,000 |
| F&J Prince Hldgs. B | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 10,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 776,300 |
| Forum Pacific Inc. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 10,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 130,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 106,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.14 | 2.16 | 4,216,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. A | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 2,400,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.26 | 1.28 | 1.26 | 1.28 | 1,636,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 600,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 8,850,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 600,000 |
| Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1,000 |
| Univide Holdings Inc. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 800,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 50,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Active Alliance Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 20,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.055 | 0.055 | 0.055 | 0.055 | 600,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.61 | 0.62 | 0.61 | 0.61 | 2,900,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 1.22 | 1.28 | 1.12 | 1.14 | 17,828,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 650,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 90,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 18.25 | 18.5 | 18.25 | 18.5 | 447,500 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 54,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7 | 7 | 4,440,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 90,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 900,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.145 | 0.15 | 0.145 | 0.15 | 1,230,000 |
| Eib Realty Developers Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 20,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 830,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.1 | 1.12 | 14,008,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.165 | 0.17 | 0.165 | 0.17 | 1,600,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 500,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 1,300,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 9,930,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 34,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 96,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 2,980,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.35 | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 8,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 14,100,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.026 | 0.027 | 0.025 | 0.026 | 133,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0046 | 0.0048 | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 142,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.59 | 0.6 | 70,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.66 | 0.67 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 1,590,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 870,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 2,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0034 | 0.0036 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 140,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 0.0046 | 42,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 10,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.245 | 640,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.245 | 0.27 | 0.245 | 0.27 | 1,470,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 8,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.039 | 0.041 | 0.039 | 0.04 | 19,800,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.24 | 0.26 | 0.24 | 0.25 | 400,000 |

## CURRENCIES

| December 17, 2004 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.755001888 | 1.000000 | 56.2590 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007208 | 0.009547 | 0.5371 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.457984 | 1.931100 | 108.6418 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.097094 | 0.128601 | 7.2350 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.651988 | 0.863558 | 48.5829 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.610991 | 0.809258 | 45.5280 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.458132 | 0.606796 | 34.1377 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.569942 | 0.754888 | 42.4692 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.00287 | 2.652601 | 149.2439 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.201339 | 0.266674 | 15.0028 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.456747 | 0.604961 | 34.0345 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000082 | 0.000108 | 0.0061 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.019275 | 0.025530 | 1.4363 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.205571 | 0.272279 | 15.3181 |
| Euro | Euro | 1 | 1.324500 | 74.5150 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.252509 | 0.334448 | 18.8157 |
| Brazil | REAL | 0.276304 | 0.365965 | 20.5888 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134545 | 0.178205 | 10.0256 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017257 | 0.022857 | 1.2859 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.198711 | 0.263193 | 14.8070 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.067081 | 0.088849 | 4.9986 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.535007 | 0.708617 | 39.8661 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.121942 | 0.161512 | 9.0865 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.012668 | 0.016779 | 0.9440 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.130627 | 0.173016 | 9.7337 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000716 | 0.000948 | 0.0533 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.111231 | 0.147325 | 8.2884 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.014544 | 0.019264 | 1.0836 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.023361 | 0.030941 | 1.7407 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000394 | 0.000522 | 0.0294 |

# Mining firms . . .

From page B1

their credibility as environmentally-sensitive investors.

Aside from that, Romualdez said the chamber was planning to launch an investment roadshow in China.

"We are paying attention to China particularly because it is a main driver of demand for minerals," he said.

Based on government projections, the revitalization of the sector could push up mining investments to as high as $4.36 billion, with annual potential revenues of $2.32 billion.

As many as 19,000 workers could also benefit from new jobs "from identified high-profit mining projects within the next 10 years."

The Department of Trade and Industry has listed the mining sector as one of the seven priority areas for investment promotion, saying that untapped local mineral resources resources were estimated to be worth $964.7 billion.

Industry officials said global leaders like Anglo American plc saw the Philippines as the highest-ranking country worldwide in terms of "mineral prospectivity."

To date, some 22 large-scale metallic projects worth $6.1 billion and 25 exploration projects worth $62 million are pending with the mining bureau.

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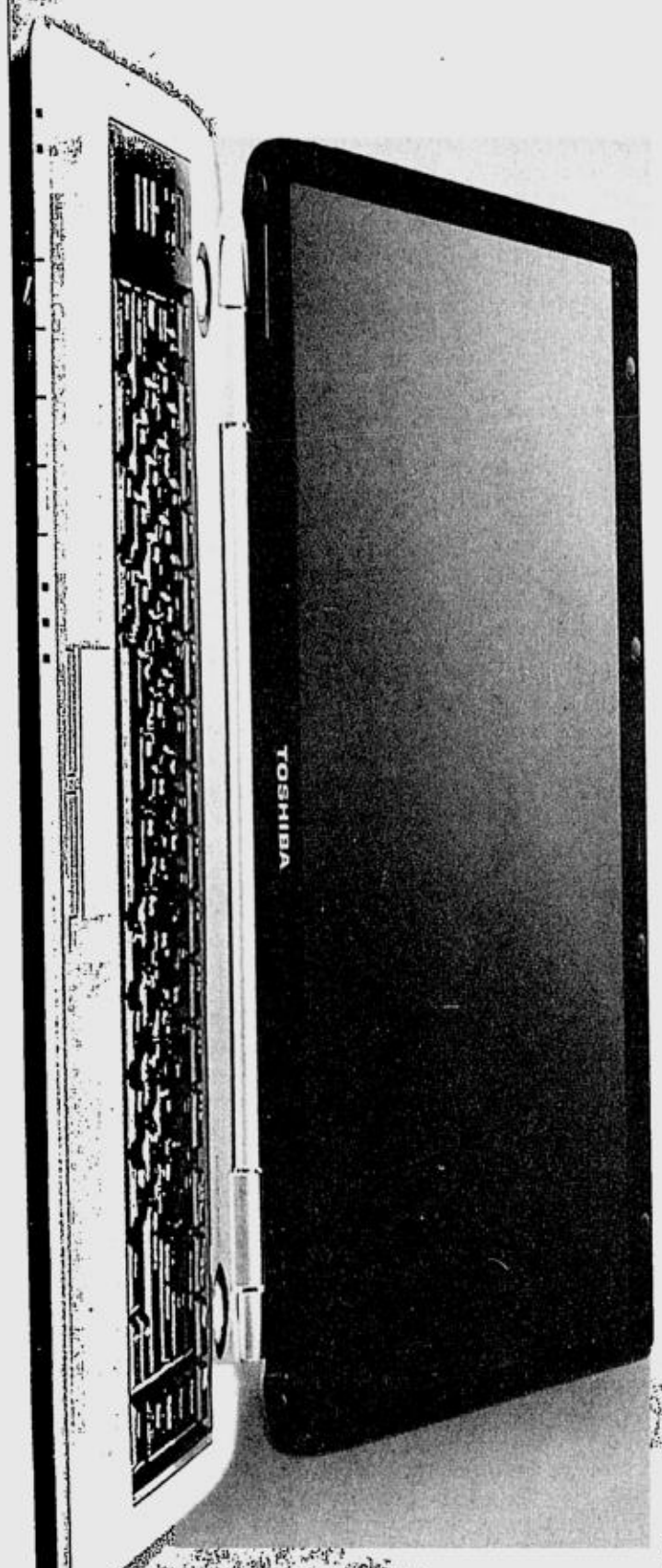

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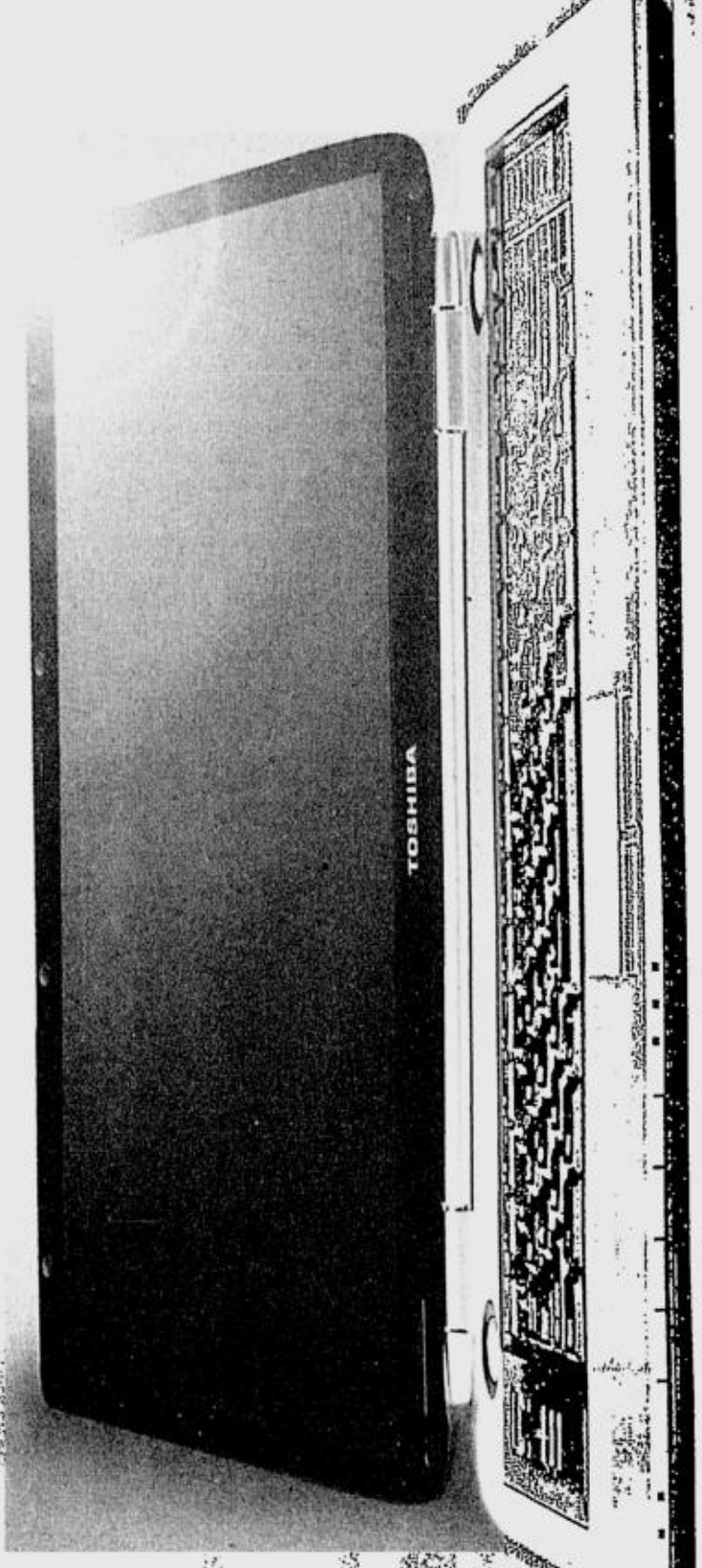

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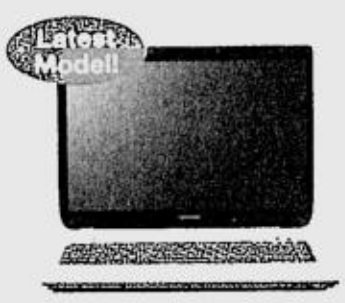


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Model No: PSM30L-7102L

**Wide-screen display with mind-blowing multimedia horsepower.**

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology Intel® Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.50GHz, 2MB Cache, 400MHz FSB), Intel® PRO/Wireless Network Connection 802.11g
- Microsoft® Windows® Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
- 256MB DDR SDRAM/40GB HDD with shock absorber
- Large 15.4" (39.1cm) WXGA TFT display
- NVIDIA® GeForce™ FX Go5200 with 32MB Video RAM
- DVD/CD-RW combo drive
- SD slot, 3 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE1394), Fast InfraRed and TV-out port
- Internal harman/kardon® stereo speakers
- Cool magnesium chassis at 2.8kg
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

Original Launch Price
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### Satellite A50-S536G

Model No: PSA50L-04V002

**Clear SuperView display technology.**

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- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
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- Metallic silver chassis at 2.8kg
- 256MB DDR SDRAM/40GB HDD with shock absorber
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
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Original Launch Price
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DIVESTMENT EFFORTS

# Transco, 3 electric co-ops sign lease deals

By Abigail L. Ho

NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) recently signed lease purchase agreements with three electric cooperatives in Mindanao for its sub-transmission assets.

The deals involve a total of P146.5 million.

The agreements forged last Tuesday were with Cotabato Electric Cooperative Inc. (Cotelco), South Cotabato Electric Cooperative Inc. (Socoteco I) and Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative Inc. (Sukelco).

The Cotelco agreement, worth around P80.8 million, involves 81.44 circuit kilometers of Transco's sub-transmission lines and covers 701 structures along the Tacurong-Kidapawan, Kidapawan-Mt. Apo and Kidapawan-Matalam 69-kilovolt (kV) lines.

For Socoteco I, the lease purchase agreement covers 407 structures along the Tacurong-Koronadal and Koronadal-Surallah 69 kV lines, with a total length of 43.87 circuit kilometers. The agreement is worth almost P35.8 million.

The P29.9-million Sukelco agreement entails the purchase of 279 structures along the Tacurong-Kidapawan, Tacurong-Kalandagan, and Ala-Dukay 69-kV lines.

Under these agreements, the electric cooperatives are required to give a downpayment equivalent to 20 percent of the sub-transmission assets' selling price.

The balance will be amortized within a period not exceeding 75 percent of the assets' remaining life.

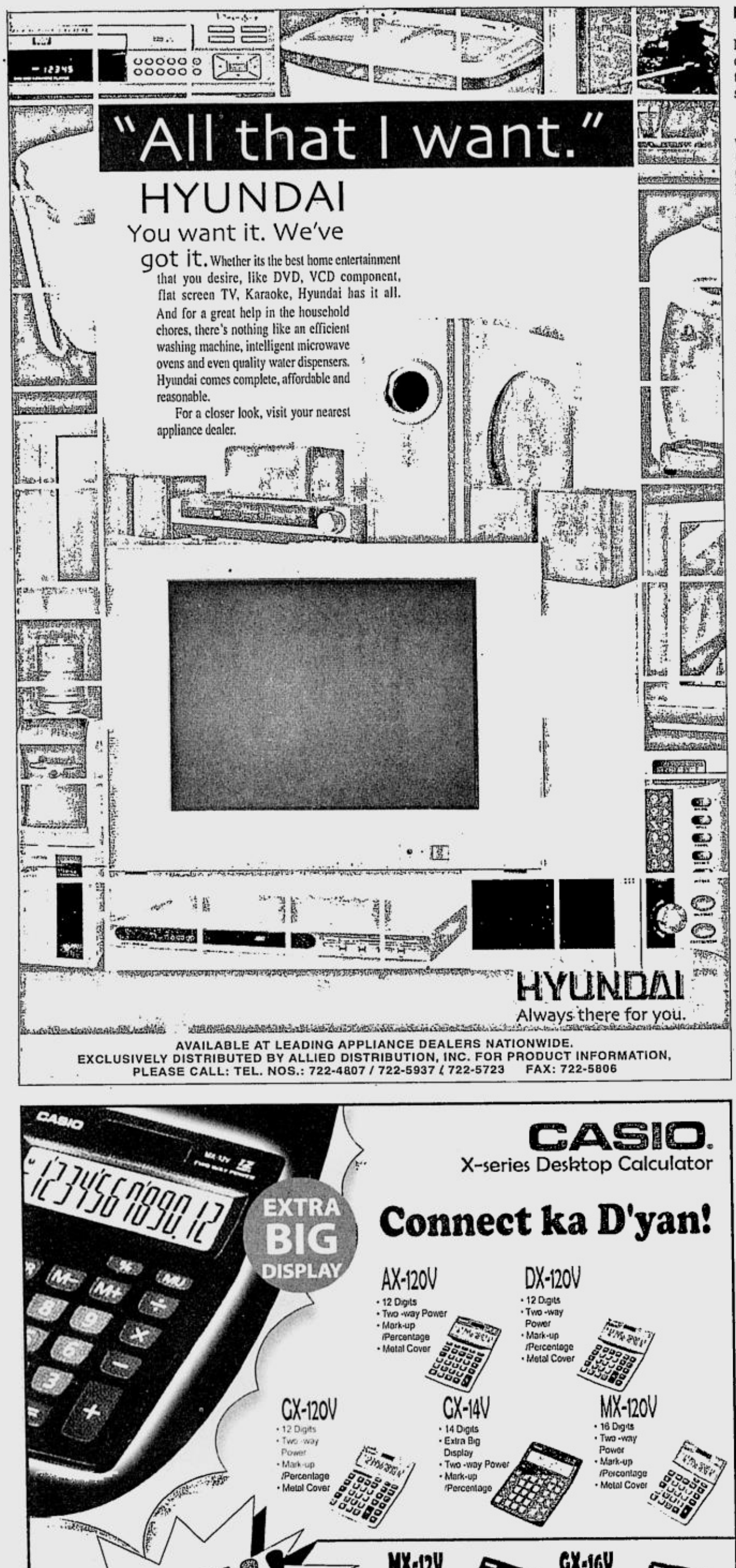
Upon settlement of the 20-percent downpayment, Transco will turn over to the electric cooperatives the operations and maintenance of the assets.

The ownership of the assets, however, will only be transferred to the electric cooperatives once they have paid fin full.

"The divestment process is seeing concrete gains. The information campaign we embarked on a couple of months ago had helped clarify the concerns that qualified cooperatives might have had about the process. This is a very good indication that we can push ahead according to the timetable that we have set," Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said in a statement.

"We expect to sign more of these agreements before the year ends. Transco is committed to the completion of this process as it would ensure the continued quality, reliability, security and affordability of electricity to end-users," he added.

Transco plans to fully divest its ownership of 7,547 circuit kilometers of 69-kV lines by 2005.



# *Sale of Meridian to Smart gets NTC go-ahead*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has approved the petition of Meridian Telekoms Inc. to sell all its shares to Smart Communications Inc.

Smart bought 40 percent of Meridian in September and it committed to buy the remaining 60 percent of the company next year. This, however, has to be approved by the NTC and Congress.

Upon approval by Congress, Smart can immediately buy the entire shares of Meridian.

Meridian is a broadband player formerly controlled by the family of Mark Jimenez. It is, however, selling its entire 2.5 million common shares to Smart, the country's largest wireless phone company.

At its par value of P100, the deal was estimated to be worth P250 million.

As per the record of the NTC, Meridian has P5.08 million in outstanding obligations with the commission, representing unpaid permit and spectrum user fee. Meridian is, however, contesting the amount.

Despite this, the NTC approved the sale after considering the track record of the buying company.

"Smart is an established telecommunications company which operates cellular mobile telecoms service, national and international long distance services, leased channel services and Internet-based services. So in the interest of public service, we approve the agreement," said the NTC.

Under the Public Service Act, a domestic telecom carrier must secure the NTC's approval for any change in ownership involving stake of more than 40 percent. Meridian must also secure the go-ahead of the Congress before it could sell its entire equity to Smart.

Established in 1996, Meridian operates a data leased network and an international leased line, allowing it to provide high-speed broadband Internet access to its subscribers. The cost of the infrastructure it had put up was P167.4 million.

The company has an authorized capital stock of P1 billion divided into 10 million common shares, of which 2.5 million shares were issued and fully paid.

"The transaction will benefit the subscribers of Meridian. It will effectively bring about the operational alignment of Smart that is expected to result in increased efficiency in rendering services," Meridian told the NTC.






# Aranetas to launch ₱5-B flagship project next year

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

REAL estate developer Araneta Properties Inc. is set to launch its P5-billion flagship property project by the first half next year, an official of the company said.

Araneta Properties has an existing joint venture agreement with Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. involving the development by Sta. Lucia of roughly 240 hectares of land owned by Araneta Properties in San Jose, Del Monte, Bulacan, into a mixed-use residential and commercial subdivision, which will be complete with a country club and a possible golf course.

In a separate disclosure yesterday, Araneta Properties said it would allocate roughly 200 lots in the subdivision for the Philippine Judges Association (PJA), an organization of 700 active judges from Metropolitan and Regional trial courts. This portion of the property, involving 20 hectares of the property, will be called the PJA Subdivision.

Jose Antonio Rodenas, project development manager of Araneta Properties, said the allocation was in response to the government's call for the private sector to be more proactive in providing affordable housing to the public.

Araneta Properties had a previous joint venture agreement with Keppel Properties of Singapore for the development of roughly 300 hectares of Araneta-owned land also in Bulacan. However, the project has yet to be started.

The Araneta family has roughly 1,000 hectares of land in the Bulacan area.

Araneta Properties, formerly known as Integrated Chrome Corp., was organized to mine chrome ore and produce ferro metal, commonly known as ferrochrome.

It changed its name to its present one and its primary purpose to that of land and property development in 1997 with the entry of the Araneta Group.

The company is now engaged in the development of 1,500 hectares of land located in the municipality of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan and Caloocan City.

# Grains Highway plan backed

THE LIVESTOCK and poultry industry of Batangas recently backed the call of the province's cooperatives for more investments in corn production and processing facilities.

This followed a dialogue between the National Corn Competitiveness Board (Corn Board) and Limcoma Multipurpose Cooperative of Batangas.

Local corn farmers are urged to increase their production in the wake of an expected supply tightness and rising prices in the global market.

The Lipa City-based Limcoma is one of the leading, most viable, full service cooperatives in the country. It earlier urged its members to enroll in the Grains Highway Program of the Corn Board.

The Grains Highway Program is a competitiveness strategy designed to reduce the cost of production, processing and transport of yellow corn from farm to market through the establishment of production clusters and installation of service centers where producers can dry, store and sell their grains directly to end users.

Limcoma president Nicanor Briones said "co-investing in corn production and processing is the most logical option for the livestock and poultry raisers to address our increasing raw material requirements."

Corn Board adviser and Jobs Undersecretary Theresa Cruz-Capellan said "Limcoma offered Batangas to be the pilot area of the Grains Highway Program because its yellow corn daily requirement is very high." The province is the country's biggest supplier of table eggs and the second largest producer of pork.

Capellan said Limcoma had committed to consolidate a hundred hectares this dry season for trial. For the rainy season, it will expand its commitment to a thousand hectares as soon as financing for the establishment of corn drying and storage facilities is in place."

# Seair to start $40-M expansion in 2005

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOUTHEAST Asian Airlines, a small domestic carrier, is kicking off a $40-million expansion program early next year with the lease of 2 new aircraft, a company director said.

Seair director Nikos Gitsis said the first phase of a 4-year expansion program would start in the first quarter of 2005. The two new leases are estimated to cost about $10 million.

The company's fleet consists of nine 19-seater LET UVP-E. The company also owns a restored vintage amphibian, Do-24 ATT, that its chair Iren Dornier is using to fly around the world to raise funds for Unicef Philippines.

The nine-year-old airline firm is 60 percent owned by Filipino investors led by Tommy Lopez. The remaining 40 percent is controlled by Dornier and Gitsis. Seair specializes in tourist routes.

Gitsis said half of the expansion would be financed with debt and the other half with equity. Possible lenders are European investment banks, he said.

"With the lease of new aircraft, we are looking to increase our frequency in existing routes," the Seair executive said.

Gitsis said the LET UVP-E could land on paved and unpaved airstrips. The aircraft is most suited for short-haul transport both on paved runways and in remote, grassy and undeveloped areas.

Seair flies to Caticlan in Boracay, Clark Angeles, Camiguin, Cagayan de Oro Cotabato, Davao, Siargao, Tandag, Zamboanga, Jolo, Tawi-Tawi. In Palawan, the airline flies to El Nido, Taytay, Cuyo and Puerto Princesa.

The company has a pending petition for a fuel surcharge of P100 to P300 depending on the distance. Gitsis said like any other airline, Seair had been absorbing the impact of the fuel increases.

"This year we hope to be more profitable especially during peak season," said Gitsis. "Our load factor is increasing and tourism is catching up."

Seair's load factor averages 70 percent. Gitsis said the company hoped to increase this to 80 percent. Load factor reflects how an airline maximizes the number of seats to gain more revenue.

According to Gitsis, Seair will use the vintage seaplane Do-24 ATT for commercial operations once Dornier has completed his world tour.

# Taiwan seen to invest $50M in RP

THE INFLOW of direct investments from Taiwan is expected to reach at least $50 million in 2004, up by 7.6 percent compared to the $46.4 million that came in the previous year.

According to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, two-way trade is also seen to improve as this has reached $5.2 billion in the first nine months, just a little below the $5.38 billion posted in the entire 2003.

Teco commercial secretary John C.T. Ko yesterday said Taiwanese investments in the country had reached $25.5 million in the first 11 months.

The Taiwanese projects in 2004 included Taiwan Pao An Industrial's $20-million gas fixtures production facility in Subic, Dyna Image's $8-million project in Cavite, and five other projects worth a total of $15 million.

Ko said this year's capital inflow from Taiwan showed a significant decrease compared to figures posted in 2002.

"This is due to the big investments committed that year, including a $100-million project from Formosa Plastics and a $50-million project from Lucky Cement."

Hsin-Hsing Wu, Teco's Manila representative, said the Philippines remained an option for Taiwan businesses looking for overseas locations.

"There are a number of Taiwanese businesses in Southern China that are in need of expansion," Wu said. "They would have to go to the mainland's interior if they want to stay there but the infrastructure is not so good."

*Ronnel W. Domingo*

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*Editor* Aries Espinosa

# People, Events & Products

## Starcom Phils wins 2004 P&G Global Brand Building Award

BESTING entries from North America and Spain, Starcom Worldwide Philippines, Procter & Gamble Philippines' Media Agency Of Record, scored yet another big win with its phenomenal "Sunod Sa Galaw" music and dance marketing campaign for Rejoice Shampoo in the 2004 Procter & Gamble Global Brand Building Awards held last Nov. 10, in Cincinnati, USA.

The Rejoice Team from Starcom Philippines, the leading agency in the Philippines and the only Asian country nominated, brings home for the first time in Asia the highest award given to any media agency by Procter & Gamble-The Best Media Team. Their entry bested two other shortlists from Spain and North America.

The winning campaign, "Sunod Sa Galaw" (Follows Your Every Move), leveraged on the Filipino's fervent love for music and the recent trend of novelty hits that have ingrained itself in the Filipino pop culture. Together with P&G, Starcom tapped the country's famed novelty hit maker to develop a Rejoice song that incorporated the brand's tagline in the title and refrain. With a catchy dance step to match, a music video was released featuring fast-rising teen stars. This was followed by a succession of media-based activities: the "Sunod Sa Galaw Girl" Dance Contest in a leading noontime variety show, downloadable cellphone ring tones of the song, mall-based dance contests and shows, airplay of the song on the radio, and a promotional CD which turned Gold Record. Soon, Rejoice "Sunod Sa Galaw" became a nationwide dance craze with Filipinos-from celebrities to your man on the street-doing the signature Rejoice dance moves and singing the song.

Overall, the Rejoice "Sunod Sa Galaw" media maximization ended the fiscal with a big bang delivering record awareness, recall, trial and usage scores with Rejoice posting the highest market share in 6 years.

Bernard Glock, P&G VP global for media, confers "It is a great example of having our media organization (Starcom) be at the forefront of creating multi-touchpoint marketing innovation."

**SMART PARTNERS WITH RED CROSS**

Responding to the devastation wrought by recent typhoons, Smart Communications Inc (Smart) supported the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) in assisting typhoon victims in the provinces of Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija. Aside from providing much-needed communications support, Smart turned over to the PNRC 40 boxes of relief goods and tarpaulins, collected from employees and suppliers plus a cash donation of P1 million. Photo shows PNRC chair and Senator Dick Gordon receiving from Smart public affairs head Ramon Isberto a one million peso check donated by the wireless company to the humanitarian organization. Witnessing the check turnover were (from left) PNRC Secretary-General Victor A. Liozo, PNRC Board of Governors Member and Congressman Miguel Zubiri, Board of Governors Secretary Lourdes Quezon and Smart Community Partnerships manager Darwin Flores.

**SM DOES ITS SHARE FOR THE TYPHOON VICTIMS**

The SM Group, through SM Foundation, recently donated P1.6 million to assist the victims of typhoons Winnie and Yoyong. The said amount was used to purchase relief goods and medicines for families in hard to reach areas in Quezon, Camarines Sur and Nueva Ecija. A total of 4,265 families benefited from the foundation's medical missions, wherein medicines for cough, diarrhea, fever, hypertension, parasitism, skin diseases and typhoid fever. Some 7,858 patients were given on-the-spot diagnosis, immediate treatment and medicines. The distribution of the relief goods was done in direct coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Services, the National Disaster Coordinating Council, and the Army Reserved Command who helped bring the relief goods to these hard to reach areas in the said provinces.

## Roof protection helps cut down energy cost

ONE of the most agitating bills that we received nowadays is our electric bill given the immense increase in the per kilowatt consumption. We could either live with it or go rallying in the streets to plead energy cost reduction.

It may sound queer to most of us how a roofing protection sprayed over the roof could help us address a vital concern which is energy saving. Roofs in homes and buildings basically keep us covered to protect us from bad external elements such us the sun's harmful rays and rain. Roofs alone, however, may not provide us with the kind of comfort we need.

When extreme heat and water leaks start bothering us, we start thinking that our roofs are not enough protection in itself. We fight heat with full blast air conditioning. Thus the high energy cost. When it comes to water leaks, we try to solve them via changing our roofs or applying temporary "patch and pray" sealants.

A more effective solution that we could count on these days is the long term benefit and protection that the Sprayed Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Roofing System can give. It is sprayed directly over old roofs and we can easily enjoy four roofing solutions sans the inconvenient process of changing our roofs . SPF Roofing System Insulates, waterproofs, soundproofs and rust proofs. Today, it is the most effective roofing insulation in the market worldwide. Its high "R" value (resistance to heat transfer) of 7.14 per 1 inch thickness easily translate to at lease 10 percent reduction in our electric bills.

It is made of billions of minute closed cells that resist the penetration of water and vapors. It does not have joints or seams that often allow outside water and air to pass through the roofing system into the building structure. Whether the roof is 10,000 sq. ft., 100,000 sq. ft. or larger in size, it will have no seams.

SPF Roofing System also serves as an anti-corrosion by effectively shutting out oxidation on galvanized steel roofing. Coupled with elastomeric acrylic, water based coating, the system further guarantees protection against extreme heat and ultraviolet rays. It also serves as sound insulation against rain and other external noises.

Sprayed Polyurethane Foam is very light in weight, yet, it is very strong and will not pack down or sag. It is guaranteed to last as long as the roof substrate exists. As it is sprayed directly over roofs, we can easily eliminate the costly and time consuming roof removal, operational shutdown and the damaging weather exposure. It is the most economical and practical approach to retrofit (old roof) and for new construction. For more product information, call Ikeba Enterprises at 888-9045.

**CHILI'S GREENHILLS TURNS SIX**

Chili's Greenhills recently celebrated its sixth year with Jimmy Bondoc as special guest artist. Present during the event were the board of directors of Chili's. Photo shows(from left): Richmond Yang, vice president; Art Latinazo, area director; Laine de Jesus, marketing head; Robert Epes, vice president; Ramir Angeles, restaurant manager; Luigi Vera, president. Chili's serves Southwest American food, and is well-known for its flavoured margaritas. Chili's also has branches in Greenbelt, Makati and Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City.

## BITS Clips

### South Border Live!

SOUTH Border will have their special major show concert for a cause at the Fort Bonifacio Global City Open Field tonight, 8 p.m. dubbed as "South Border Live!" A Concert for the Children. The event is presented by Jollibee and will be participated by different Schools in Metro Manila to bring out the spirit of unity among students. The general public is also invited to take part in this show. Tickets price at P375 and P225 available at Ticketworld Outlets (tel. no. 891-9999). For more information contact 33rd Street Talent Production at tel. nos. 854-4821, 472-5795, 854-5684, 854-5686.

### Filipiniana books as gifts

THIS holiday season, Tower Book House (815-4938 or 815-6925) is offering Filipiniana books at discounted prices as potential gift books. All the books have been penned by Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre, one of the country's seasoned authors. Interested parties may also drop by the office of Tower Book House at Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

### YES Christmas Bazaar

YUPANGCO Exhibit & Show Inc (YES) brings back its annual "Factory Outlet Christmas Bazaar 2004" on Dec. 16 to 23, (except Sundays) at Makati , Jupiter corner Reposo from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Now on its 5th year, the 16-day Christmas Bazaar will showcase a wide variety of products at competitive prices. Proceeds of the event and other gift items that shall be solicited will benefit street children and a part of it will be donated to Save-a-cub project. For further inquiries, call 899-9821/28;899-9595 loc. 344/347; txt: 0917-835-1111.

### Abenson Christmas promo

TRUE to Holiday traditions, Abenson celebrates Christmas with loads of fun! First, customers who buy a minimum of P1,000 can join Abenson's 100 Days of Christmas raffle promo. Second, use your BPI Express Credit Classic (Burgundy) card at Abenson to enjoy Double Frequent User Points. Plus get a chance to win a Volvo luxury car or an P800,000 lifestyle package in the raffle promo. Or you may also use your Citibank credit card at Abenson to avail of valued perks. Enjoy 0 percent on all items exclusive to Citibank cardholders and double your chances of winning in the Citibank Preferred brands raffle promotion. Fourth, when you use you Visa card you get to join Visa's raffle promo where you get a chance to win back your 2004 Visa purchases. Be a lucky winner when you shop at any Abenson store.

### 'The Spirit Lives On'

THE PURPLE Panthers of the Ateneo de San Pablo will hold its 53rd home coming titled "The Spirit Lives On" on Dec. 30, at Ricardo's Forest Hills, San Benito, Alaminos, Laguna. For details kindly call Tony Excondo (049)562-3754, Chito Ilagan (049)562-350, and Mike Alcantara (02) 869-2382.

**2GO MAKES CHRISTMAS MERRIER WITH DELIFRANCE**

Forget gift-wrapping this Christmas as Aboitiz 2GO couriers deliver Delifrance season delights freshly baked from the oven straight to the doorstep of your loved ones. Now, giving gifts is effortless as one phone call. Just dial 2GO customer service hotline, 898-7845 and have Delifrance goodies, such as Fruitcake, Food for the Gods and Twinings Tea transported anywhere in Manila and to major cities nationwide. More, if you have a greeting card or a special letter that you want to send together with the Delifrance delights, 2GO will pick it for free. You may also avail of this exclusive promo by visiting selct 2GO outlets (formerly Aboitiz Express) and have your Delifrance favorites delivered in time for the holidays. Freight charges within Metro Manila starts at P60, while outside Metro Manila, P95. Provincial deliveries are from Dec. 21 to 23 only. For more information, call 2GO at 898-7845.

## ProductFILES

### Find your perfect Maxx

FINDING your perfect fit for menthol goodness is as easy as choosing from the six cool Maxx Candy flavors featured in its latest TV commercial. The Maxx TVC is a unique display of color combined with catchy rhythm and music. It features your neighborhood Takatak boys in action alongside funky girls in multi-colored outfits that are as varied as the Maxx menthol candy flavors. Take your pick from Maxx's cool and fruity variants - Cherry, Honey Lemon, Honey Mansi, and Orange Dalandan. Each fruitful candy is a blend of menthol and fruit flavors for a truly soothing experience. For a real blast of vapor, there's Maxx Eucalyptus with its powerful combination of eucalyptus, menthol and Maxicool for long-lasting flavor and deep-down coolness. And if you're in need of stronger menthol action, go for the new Maxx Extra Strength enriched with Vitamin C. It has the extra kick of heightened menthol action in its centerfill so you'll get that extra menthol satisfaction.

### Breakfast Joys for the holidays

NOW, that the holiday rush is already in our midst, start your day right by satisfying your gusto for delicious breakfast meals at Jollibee. These Breakfast Joys, which are offered as early as 6 a.m. are what you need when you wake early each day, in time for the Aguinaldo masses at dawn. There's a wide array of appetizing Breakfast Joys in Jollibee. If you are into continental breakfast, enjoy the sweet and yummy Pancake Meal. A warm and luscious porridge like the Arroz Caldo Meal is what you need when you opt for a hot morning meal. People on the go can stop by and get a yummy Sausage Sandwich. But if you prefer Pinoy breakfast meals, you have a choice of Hotdog, Longganisa, Corned Beef, Beef Tapa and Breakfast Steak which are served with garlic rice and egg. All these come with your choice of brewed coffee, tskolate or cold drinks.

**M&M'S CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL**

It was an early Christmas treat for Arvin Santos when he was awarded with an M&M's Roller Coaster Dispenser. Arvin found the winning coupon in a pack of his favourite M&M's Chocolates from SM Snack Exchange Megamall. He is the first winner of M&M's Christmas Carnival promo by Master Foods Phils Inc, makers of M&M's, Snickers, Maltesers, and Dove. The M&M's Christmas Carnival promo is offering over 2,000 authentic M&M's world premium items and a chance to win P500,000 cash. Shown in the photo are Omar Rebamonte, trade marketing manager for snack, and Arvin with his family. Celebrate Christmas in Color. Check inside packs of every participating brand you buy and see if you can be the next winner.

# 'Maligayang Pasko' for Baseco families: Prudentialife-GK Village opens

TODAY, Prudentialife Plans Inc and Gawad Kalinga are welcoming 48 homeless families to their new and better homes at the Prudentialife-GK Village in Baseco, Tondo, Manila.

Prudentialife-GK Village - The vision of Prudentialife in turning slums and shanties into shelters of love and the good life by building 48 houses in Baseco has come true. The realization of that vision began when Prudentialife and Gawad Kalinga laid the foundation for the Prudentialife-GK Village in a ground breaking ceremony held last October.

Prudentialife chair ambassador Francisco A. Alba will award the keys to the 48 families as beneficiaries of the Prudentialife Village in today's turn-over ceremony at Baseco.

Ambassador Alba acknowledged Gawad Kalinga and Prudentialife employees for making the Prudentialife Village possible. "They say the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step and this is the first step to build better communities thanks to Gawad Kalinga and Prudentialifers."

Gawad Kalinga executive director Antonio Meloto said that the dream of the poor Filipinos is now happening because of companies like Prudentialife. "We can see that the poor become productive if you give them dignity."

Prudentialife president Jose Alberto T. Alba said that the company will continue to lend a hand aside from the actual building of houses. "We hope to help in some other ways like providing education to the children of Gawad Kalinga."

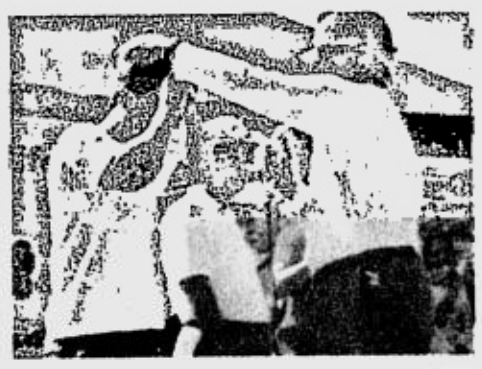
Lanterns of Gold - The Prudentialife family joins the Prudentialife Village beneficiaries in decorating their new homes to make their 2003 Christmas more meaningful and memorable. Forty-eight lanterns of Gold of varied designs, created by Prudentialife employees shall be displayed to illuminate every house during the "Paskuhan Sa Baseco" today. These lanterns were selected from several entries in a company-wide lantern making contest.

THE MAKING of the Prudentialife Village. Prudentialife employees pass building blocks to one another.

PRUDENTIALIFE Village groundbreaking. GK executive director Tony Meloto, Prudentialife president Jose Alberto T. Alba and Prudentialife chair ambassador Francisco Alba.

BLESSING of the Prudentialife-GK Village site.

## *GK cites Prudentialifers as 'Bagong Bayani'*



GAWAD Kalinga executive director Antonio Meloto conferred the GK Bagong Bayani award to the Prudentialife employees during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Prudentialife Village in Baseco, Tondo, Manila.

Meloto cited the Prudentialifers as among the new heroes in nation building because of their voluntary contribution in helping uplift the lives of the poor through GK777 that envisions the building of 700,000 houses in 7 thousand communities in 7 years. "This company and its employees are blessed because of what they are doing for the country."

Prudentialife is the first pre-need company to work hand in hand with Gawad Kalinga in actual building of houses for the needy. Through the Prudentialife Foundation's GOLD (Gift Of Life Drive) campaign, Prudentialife employees allot a few pesos of their salaries for the project and they also go to Baseco every Saturday not only to build homes but a community of responsible and productive families.

# GlobeSolutions, GlaxoSmithKline strengthen partnership

GLOBESOLUTIONS, the country's premier corporate mobile solutions provider, recently consolidated its longstanding partnership with leading research-based pharmaceutical GlaxoSmithKline Philippines, upon the company's acquisition of the GlobeSolutions sales force automation package.

"As a pharmaceutical with operations extending nationwide, synchronization is important," says Amado Tadeña, president of GlaxoSmithKline Philippines. "Our main office must be accessible to our field staff at all times." GlaxoSmithKline currently utilizes GlobeSolutions business lines, as well as the TxtConnect service, which allows the company to send large-scale text broadcasts to its employees.

GlobeSolutions' sales force automation service is expected to enhance the efficiency of GlaxoSmithKline's extensive sales force. Each medical representative will be provided with a GlobeSolutions business line and a high-end PDA phone. Equipped with state-of-the-art phones and with their wireless ordering system on the reliable GlobeSolutions network, GlaxoSmithKline medical representatives can instantaneously process sales orders and access the company's inventory database, even when they are in remote areas of the country. "We're very confident that our latest venture with GlobeSolutions will help us exceed our sales expectations and retain our position at the top of the market," says Tadeña.

Top companies like GlaxoSmithKline can greatly benefit from GlobeSolutions' suite of mobile solutions that are relevant across industries but remain easily adaptable to specific client needs. "It gives us great pleasure to offer GlaxoSmithKline the necessary tools and transmission capabilities that help them achieve increased productivity and better profitability," says Dan David, head of GlobeSolutions. "We continuously strive to gain better understanding of our clients' evolving business issues and translate these into practical solutions that help overcome these issues."

For more information about which business solution best fits your company's needs, log on to www.globesolutions.com.ph. You can also email globesolutions@globetel.com.ph or call the GlobeSolutions hotline, 730-1999.

DAN David, Globe Telecom's head of corporate wireless business, and Amado Tadeña, president of GlaxoSmithKline Phils consolidate their business partnership.

**MAYBANK TO OFFER MUTUAL FUND THROUGH PAMI**

Maybank Philippines Inc (MPI), a member of the Maybank Group, the largest banking group in Malaysia and among Asia's top 20 banks, recently partnered with Philam Asset Management Inc (Pami), a company under the wing of AIG and Philamlife, for the full distributorship of Mutual Funds. This partnership opens up an additional investment outlet for existing Maybank Trust products and services, which will eventually include top Fund Managers, to give clients a menu of products and investment outlets. Present during the MOA signing are (from left): Cora A. Mallillin, SVP for retail finance, Maybank Phils; Lim Hong Tat, president and CEO, Maybank Phils; Jose L. Cuisia Jr., chair, Philam Group of Companies; and Rex Ma. A. Mendoza, president and CEO, Philam Asset Management Inc; with, Maybank's Kevin W. Kok and Karla F. Abarquez; and Pami's Alberto V. Ramos and Alijeffly C. Gonzales.

# TBWA\Asia Pacific named 'Agency of the Year' by Media Magazine

TBWA\Asia Pacific has been named 'Agency of the Year' by Media Magazine, Asia Pacific's leading media, advertising and marketing publication. TBWA\Tequila Singapore has also been awarded "Office of the Year' and John Merrifield from TBWA\Japan, 'Creative of the Year'. This is the first time any agency has collected a total of 3 awards at the event, which includes both 'Agency of the Year' and 'Office of the Year.' Tequila\Singapore was also named runner-up in the 'Below-The-Line Agency of the Year' category.

In its commentary on the win, Media Magazine said the award "demonstrated that TBWA\ was capable of punching above its age and weight....not only in account reviews, but at international award shows as well." It noted that under the guidance of Asia Pacific Chairman, Keith Smith, the network had developed "a team that is entrepreneurial, quality focused and has demonstrated and honed TBWA\'s Disruption positioning into a fearsome competitive edge."

The magazine commended the agency's strong new business performance, highlighting wins such as Standard Chartered and Singapore Airlines KrisFlyer. It also remarked on the networks amazing run at international awards shows including Cannes, Clio, D&AD and One Show. Media finished up by praising the agency's 'Disruption' positioning and training program, which has taught its staff to think differently and deliver exceptional creative ideas.

Commenting on TBWA\Tequila Singapore's win, Media praised the agency on its decision to integrate TBWA and Tequila offices under joint CEO's, describing the move as a "master stroke." Media also congratulated the office on its impressive win record, both in terms of new business and creative awards, and on its commitment to the industry and to developing advertising talent.

Finally, Media congratulated John Merrifield from TBWA\Japan on his win, commenting on his "ability to deliver exceptional creative solutions" and "some of the region's most awe-inspiring work". The magazine pointed towards Merrifield's work on adidas in particular, highlighting his 'Vertical Football' billboard has become the third most awarded piece of communication globally in 2004. "Merrifield has successfully inculcated a culture of creative innovation, turning (TBWA\Japan) into one of the country's most awarded in the space of just 12 months" said Media.

For more information, please contact Emma Vincent, regional marketing manager on +852 2833 9866 or e-mail emma.vincent@tbwa.com.hk.

**HOLIDAY HAM SAMPLING**

A promo lady gives out free slices of CDO Holiday Ham at a Manila supermarket to buyers. The cost of pork, which has gone up by as much as 30 percent versus year-ago levels, has prompted ham makers to squeeze margins to make Christmas hams still affordable.

## Tanduay's 150th year

AS A fitting climax to its 150th anniversary celebration with the theme "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit", Tanduay will be staging grand finale specials on GMA-7's SOP, and ABS-CBN's ASAP noontime shows on Sunday, Dec. 19. The SOP show will starts at 1 p.m. and will feature people from all walks of life celebrating different occasions with Tanduay. The ASAP show will follow at 1:30 p.m. and will feature Tanduay as part of Philippine history for the past 150 years and the endless innovations of Tanduay products to propel the company through another 150 years. Major highlight of both shows will be a message from Dr. Lucio Tan, a leading Taipan of Philippine industry and chair of Tanduay Distillers Inc. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime event Watch GMA-7's SOP and ABS-CBN's ASAP on Dec. 19. Be a part of history and celebrate the Filipino Spirit with Tanduay - The No. 1 Rhum.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

# SCIENCE/HEALTH

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## OTHER CAUSES OF STROKE

# Cracking down on 'neck cracking'

By Charles E. Buban

THE NEXT time you visit a massage parlor, think twice about getting your neck cracked. Health experts warn that spinal manipulative therapy, as chiropractors call it, increases your risk of stroke.

Although the overall risk is probably very small, the link between stroke and neck cracking is real, says neurologist Willy Lopez, chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the Philippine General Hospital.

"The consequences of a stroke can be enormous so even a highly improbable risk such as neck cracking should not be ignored, and anyone who does such a procedure should tell their patients about the risk," Lopez says.

Besides, Lopez says, the cracking noise, which is made when ligaments and tendons slide past bumps on bones as a joint is moved, has no therapeutic effect.

### Tearing of arteries

One of the leading causes of stroke, Lopez says, is cervical arterial dissection, which occurs when one of the two arteries that wind through the back of the neck to the brain and which brings oxygen-rich blood to the brain, starts to tear.

"When the lining of this artery bleeds and forms a blood clot, this clot can easily enter the brain and cause a fatal stroke," he explains.

Any of these arteries may be damaged during a false procedure by an inexperienced masseur.

Lopez says neck injury, when associated with spontaneous tearing of the vertebral or carotid arteries caused by sudden and severe extension of the neck, neck rotation, or pressure on the artery, is a contributing cause of stroke.

This type of stroke is often called "beauty parlor syndrome," which refers to the practice of extending the neck backward over a sink for hair washing in beauty parlors.

### Other causes

There are other possible causes of stroke that have less evidence but should be considered nevertheless.

These include alcohol abuse, drug abuse, blood disorders, such as blood that clots easily or deficiencies of various blood components, high blood levels of homocysteine (a blood component), and even hormone replacement therapy (although the American Heart Association says the risk of stroke associated with HRT appears low but warrants further investigation).

Intravenous drug abuse carries a high risk of stroke from cerebral embolisms (a blood clot from one part of the body that is carried by the bloodstream to the brain where it blocks an artery), Lopez says.

### Symptoms

Lopez says a person who has any of the following symptoms must go directly to the hospital:

- One side of the body becomes weak, numb, or paralyzed
- Double vision, blurry vision or loss of sight
- Trouble speaking or difficulty understanding speech
- Loss of balance or coordination, dizziness or sudden severe headache.

"The first three hours after a stroke are critical. Treating a stroke during those crucial first hours can prevent long-term damage," says Lopez.

Unfortunately, Lopez notes, many people wait—often for hours—hoping the symptoms will pass.

"Stroke is an emergency, and treatment must not be delayed. If blood flow is not resumed in six minutes or so, the parts of the brain that were dependent on that blood flow begin to die, leading to permanent disability or death," he explains.

### Two types

There are two types of strokes. The most common is ischemic, where brain cells die because the blood vessel feeding that area is blocked. The second is hemorrhagic, where a blood vessel has burst and blood seeps into the space surrounding the brain.

Identifying which type struck the patient is crucial because treatment is different for each type.

The first step in the diagnosis of a stroke is a medical history and physical exam followed by series of tests.

Computed tomography scan (which can make an immediate diagnosis especially of hemorrhagic strokes) and magnetic resonance imaging of the head may be done to show the type, size and location of the stroke.

These tests can show whether or not there is bleeding in the brain. If bleeding is ruled out, then clot-breaking drugs can be administered, Lopez says.

## *What is stroke?*

A STROKE (also called brain attack) happens when blood flow to a region of the brain is obstructed, causing brain tissue death.

There are two major causes of a stroke: blockage and bleeding.

Blockage of a blood vessel in the brain or neck can be caused by a blood clot in that area (this is called a thrombosis) or a blood clot from somewhere else that has moved and now blocks a blood vessel in the brain or neck (this is called an embolism).

In some cases, the blockage is caused by a constriction or narrowing of an artery in the head or neck (this is called a stenosis).

Bleeding of a blood vessel (called hemorrhagic stroke) is associated with high blood pressure that applies a lot of stress on the artery walls, causing them to burst.

### Aneurysm

Aneurysm is another major cause of stroke. This is a weak spot in an artery wall which balloons out because of the pressure of the blood circulating inside the affected artery. An aneurysm can eventually burst and cause blood to leak out into the brain tissue.

Although it is unclear why people develop aneurysms, a number of studies show genes may play a role as aneurysms run in certain families.

### Stroke prevention

The most important risks for developing stroke are smoking, high cholesterol blood levels, diabetes that is not properly controlled and untreated high blood pressure.

"Nearly all stroke risks can be prevented but they need the patient's cooperation. A [preventive] tablet or two a day, a low fat diet, regular exercise and throwing away your cigarettes are a small price to pay for your well-being and the chance to enjoy life much longer," says neurologist Willy Lopez, chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the Philippine General Hospital.

Having a risk factor for stroke doesn't mean one will have a stroke. On the other hand, not having a risk factor doesn't mean one won't have a stroke.

But Lopez says the risk of stroke grows as the number and severity of risk factors increase. *Charles Buban*

# *Migraine sufferers face risk of stroke*

LONDON—Migraine sufferers are twice as likely to have a stroke as people who are not afflicted with the debilitating headaches, Canadian and American scientists said on Monday.

A review of 14 studies into the link between the headaches and stroke showed patients who have auras, or light effects, with their migraine are even more at risk.

"The results of our study strongly suggest that migraine may be an independent risk factor for stroke," said Ali Samii, a neurologist at the University of Washington, in a report published online by the British Medical Journal.

Three studies in the review indicated that women who have migraines and who take oral contraceptives were up to eight times more likely to have a stroke than those not taking the pill.

### Reduced blood flow

Samii and Mayhar Etminan, of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and their colleagues who collaborated on the review, believe the raised risk is due to the reduced blood flow to the brain that occurs during a migraine.

Ischemic stroke, which is caused by a blood clot that blocks a blood vessel or artery in the brain, is the most common type of stroke.

Millions of people suffer from migraine, a severe throbbing headache that can cause vomiting, nausea and a sensitivity to light, sound and smells. The cause is unknown.

The scientists called for more research into the link between migraine and stroke risk. *Reuters*

# Lessons on health from FPJ

**MEDICAL FILES**

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MANY people still cannot accept the untimely death of Fernando Poe Jr. The disbelief is not without basis. Indeed, how can the king of Philippine movies succumb so swiftly to a physical ailment when he had always been the symbol of strength that could defeat scores of evil men and of good health that could defy any illness?

FPJ's reputation of being health-conscious has been reinforced by regular exercise that kept him trim and fit and his avoidance of a high-fat diet.

In death, "Da King" manages to give us these practical lessons on health:

**1. A "normal" executive checkup does not totally guaranty a clean bill of health.** FPJ had a thorough executive checkup just before he ran in the May presidential elections. All findings were supposed to be normal, or at least there was nothing remarkable to be considered alarming.

This is one limitation of an executive checkup. It's like taking a full-body picture of a person, but it does not zoom in and give the physician a close-up view of a particular part of the body so some details could be appreciated.

An executive checkup is a valuable general screening type of medical evaluation, but most types of checkups do not really focus on specific organ-systems. However, if we give our physician good meaningful information that could point to a specific problem in our body, then he can request for more appropriate diagnostic tests.

I recall a lady who came in for an executive checkup and she resented the history-taking of one of our medical residents saying, "I came here so you could tell me what my medical problems are, and not for me to tell you in advance what illness I have."

She didn't realize she was short-changing herself with such attitude.

### Pay attention to symptoms

**2. The body's call for help should be promptly heeded.** This SOS call usually comes in the form of signs and symptoms, most of which many of us promptly dismiss. Our body is probably the best-designed living machine God made. The various organs function efficiently nonstop and troubleshoot or compensate for any problem as long as they can.

Our body will keep on sending need-for-rescue messages to us in the form of signs and symptoms. This may come in the form of nonspecific symptoms such as dizziness, headache, easy fatigability, weakness, numbness of an extremity, pallor, loss of appetite and change in the bowels.

These symptoms may seem benign and of no significance, and we're quick to attribute it to anything from faulty glasses to stress to a change in the weather, except to anything serious. Our family physician, who is familiar with our medical history, should be the best person to interpret these symptoms, not us.

### Periodic visits to doctor

**3. A regular checkup is ideal even in apparently healthy individuals.** A periodic visit to our family physician even if we don't think anything is seriously wrong with us is well worth the trip. It can be a hassle seeing one's doctor: waiting in line, undergoing laboratory tests, taking pills doctor might prescribe. In the end though, an early diagnosis of whatever problem we might have is still our best bet to prevent unpleasant surprises.

### Men neglect their health

**4. Highly successful men tend to neglect their health.** This is actually a research finding, and the situation appears to be more gender-related than career success-related because highly successful career women are relatively more health conscious.

For sure, males do not intentionally wish to neglect their health. It must be something about the psyche of the alpha male, not only FPJ, but all self-professed alpha males, myself included.

As I said in a previous article: "Men's risk-taking behaviors, their relatively more stressful environment and daily lifestyle, and aberrant treatment-seeking behavior result in a much higher risk of disease and poorer health than women.

"The male breadwinner is so seriously focused on earning for his family that checking on his health or doing preventive measures to maintain his health always take a back seat. And because he works so hard, the alpha male feels he's entitled to some pleasurable recreation, including booze and smoke and other disease-promoting activities.

"The ego may also have something to do in nurturing this risky attitude. Some males may think it too un-male to whine and moan at every symptom one feels. The sad result is that it might already be too late when the medical problem is diagnosed."

# *Risk seen in vaginal birth after Cesarean section*

BOSTON—Women who try to give birth naturally after having had a Cesarean section face a slightly higher risk of serious medical problems, according to a comprehensive study released recently.

The finding, based on the cases of more than 33,000 women and published in the New England Journal of Medicine, may help settle a decades-old debate.

Doctors used to think a woman who had delivered one baby via Cesarean section should have all subsequent deliveries the same way. That belief was one reason surgical deliveries eventually represented more than a quarter of all births. In 1981, only 3 percent of such women tried conventional labor if they became pregnant again.

Because any surgery, including a Cesarean, poses risks, doctors tried to bring that rate down by giving women a chance to deliver vaginally before resorting to a C-section. By 1996, 28 percent of those women were having conventional deliveries.

But that, in turn, seemed to produce more cases where the scar tissue of the uterus tore during labor—a serious complication. That helped the pendulum swing back. By 2002, fewer than 13 percent of such women were having their babies vaginally.

The new study, led by Mark Landon of Ohio State University and based on data from 19 US medical centers, was designed to better assess the risks.

The Landon team found that 0.7 percent of women who had previously delivered by Cesarean section had their uterus rupture when they tried to deliver naturally.

And while no babies delivered surgically suffered from lack of oxygen, there were 12 such cases among mothers who attempted a vaginal delivery. Two of the 12 babies died.

The risk of death for the mother was the same for the two groups of women.

The risks may be higher for women who attempt a vaginal delivery "although the absolute risks are low," the researchers concluded.

Landon and his colleagues also discovered that the risk of uterine rupture increased to 1.1 percent from 0.7 percent when the drug oxytocin was used to induce labor.

In an editorial in the Journal, Michael Green of Massachusetts General Hospital said some women and their doctors might perceive the danger of trying a vaginal delivery to be small, while others may disagree.

"Ultimately," he said, "risk, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder." *Reuters*

# Too hot for a man

DISCOVER

*Massie Santos Ballon*

ATTENTION men: if you use a laptop and wish to father children someday, you may want to remove the computer from your lap. This is the message of Dr. Yefim Sheynkin, associate professor at the urology department of the State University of New York at Stony Brook and director of the institution's Male Infertility and Microsurgery Department.

Working with colleagues, Dr. Sheynkin found that working with an LC (the researchers' acronym for laptop computer) produced significant elevation of scrotal temperature.

This leads them to recommend limited use of an LC in a laptop position by teenage boys and young men in the reproductive age to avoid intermittent scrotal heat exposure.

### Low sperm count

How does using a laptop affect one's chances of becoming a father?

In their paper, which appears in the December issue of the journal Human Reproduction, the researchers estimate that one in every five couples who wish to have children are unable to do so. They say that in over half of these instances, it is because the men have low sperm counts.

One possible cause of low sperm production may be attributed to elevated temperatures in the testes, a condition known as scrotal hyperthermia.

Other studies have also suggested that driving for long periods and a sedentary job may affect sperm production.

What do using a laptop, sitting at a desk, and driving all day have in common? They require men to sit down for long periods of time.

Now generally, when a man sits down he doesn't put his legs together as a woman would. However, over time, a man driving or sitting in the office would shift his position, and occasionally bring his legs together. And a man working with a laptop will move it closer toward him and put his legs closer to each other to give the computer a stable base and make sure the laptop doesn't fall.

### Making sperms thrive

So what's bad about a man sitting with his legs closed?

The scrotal sac is located outside of the male human body—as opposed to the ovaries which are inside a woman's body—because sperm thrives in an environment that is just a couple of degrees cooler than the temperature of the human body.

If the testes were inside the body, sperm production would either slow down or cease completely.

When a man brings his legs together, he's actually raising the scrotal temperature, albeit very slowly.

Sheynkin et al. set out to find just how much the scrotal temperature changed when a man used a laptop computer cradled on his lap.

They worked with 29 male volunteers between the ages of 21 and 35 in two sessions, each lasting an hour. Prior to the first session, all 29 men, who were dressed in the same casual attire, had their body temperatures recorded.

Thermometers were attached to the outside of each testis to measure changes in the scrotal temperature. The men then entered a room, their bodies given 15 minutes to adjust to the room temperature, and then were asked to sit on chairs for an hour as if they were using a laptop cradled on their laps.

Scrotal temperatures were measured every three minutes, and when the hour was up, their scrotal temperature had risen an average of 2.1 degrees Celsius.

### Pentium 4 laptops

In the second session, the men went through the same procedures but this time, they were each given an activated laptop—the researchers say only that these laptops were both Pentium 4 units—and were asked to sit with the unit cradled on their thighs for an hour.

At the end of the hour, the researchers found that the scrotal temperatures had risen by 2.8 degrees Celsius on the right side and 2.6 degrees Celsius on the left.

In a press release, Dr. Sheynkin says these results show that scrotal hyperthermia is produced both by special body posture and local heating effect of the laptop.

But how much does the scrotal temperature have to rise and how long must it stay elevated to negatively affect sperm production?

The paper cites other studies which say that a temperature shift of just 1 degree Celsius is enough to affect sperm production.

Sheynkin et al. note that in their study, when the men used the laptops, such a shift happened within 15 minutes.

Other studies cited showed that several years of elevated scrotal temperatures negatively affected sperm production.

Would several hours of computer use be enough to cause low sperm counts? Sheynkin et al. say further studies of this type of thermal exposure are needed.

In the meantime, consider turning the laptop into a desktop.

*E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.*

# *Hope for falling, thinning hair*

HAIR loss is a problem that affects both men and women. About 87 percent of the population suffers from falling or thinning hair at one time or another.

Each individual hair has a life cycle of about four years, and each follicle has an average of 25 life cycles. The hair's life cycle is divided into three phases.

The first is the anagen or the "on" or "growth" phase that lasts approximately 1,000 days, but can range from three to five years.

Next is the catagen or regression phase, when hair follicles rapidly decrease in volume, pigment formation stops and shrinks below the surface. This phase runs approximately from three to four years.

Finally, there's the telogen phase or the "resting" or "off" phase that lasts about three to four months. In this state, hair is shed, hair follicles retract and their bases move up toward the surface of the skin.

### 60-70 strands per day

Because some hair follicles have shorter life cycles than others, about 60 to 70 hair strands fall out naturally and normally every day, even as new ones appear. Hair loss occurs when hair falls out in greater quantity than is normal as a result of the length of the telogen phase, which increases in relation to the anagen phase.

The causes are multiple and complex, and a distinction should be made between temporary and permanent hair loss.

Temporary hair loss may be caused by a number of factors including physical and psychological stress, certain medicines like anticancer drugs, deficiency in certain nutrients and hormonal changes due to pregnancy.

Permanent hair loss may be brought about by bacterial infections, certain dermatological and immunological disorders and inherited genes.

### Male pattern baldness

The most common form of hair loss is baldness called androgenetic alopecia, more commonly known as male pattern baldness. It affects around 85 percent of all genetically predisposed men between the ages of 25 and 30. It is characterized by the progressive miniaturization of the hair follicles which inhibits hair strands from growing. As a result, hair thins on the crown, while the hairline recedes in an M-pattern.

Minoxidil Regroe, recently launched as an over-the-counter hair and beauty product, is one of the most effective treatments for androgenetic alopecia because it works gradually by enlarging hair follicles. With the regular use of Minoxidil Regroe, hair follicles are stimulated so hair strands increase in length and thickness. Pigmented hair can grow from three cm or more within six to 12 months of continuous use.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

# Teething

**MY 4-month-old baby girl is teething. She is always in a bad mood, if she is not crying. We tried all sorts of pacifiers and now we have a hard time feeding her. What can we do? —*Jake L.***

Teething is a tough time for children because the tooth is slowly coming through the gum and the child can be irritated because of the changes. A cool teething ring can calm her down and you can try applying teething gel available in some dental offices. Some use tamarind as an herb. You can try this but remove the seeds of the tamarind before applying.

*E-mail your at dentalqs@yahoo.com.*

# The Net can now detect diseases

SCIENTISTS are using a new way to detect diseases via Internet. Developed and designed by a group of Russian and Taiwanese scientists, the all-dimensional automatic reflective diagnostic kinetic (ARDK) is a consolidation of 40 years of research studies. It is being used by cosmonauts to monitor their health status while in space.

ARDK does not need a complicated clinical test. The method of treatment is practical, convenient and inexpensive. With the use of the Internet and a safety gadget attached to the meridian points of a patient, it can detect diseases in five to 10 minutes.

Dr. Sonny Viloria, a medical doctor with extensive training on natural medicine here and abroad, said "ARDK is used for hard-to-diagnose health problems and to find out the root cause of an illness like chronic degenerative and infectious diseases."

Also, it provides comparative statistical information on the overall health status of body organs and can even foretell tendencies of malignancies, a past or ongoing health problems even without any manifestation for less than P1,000.

Viloria, a regular health lecturer in dzRH, dzBB and dzEC, will hold an ARDK services with free medical consultation. For reservations, call 448-7625 or 736-0844. Free medical consultation ends today at Room 205, CRB Building, Edsa, Cubao, Quezon City (across Farmers' Market) and Room 303, Tiaoqui Building, Plaza Sta. Cruz, Manila.

# The reality behind the physics Olympiad

*(Conclusion)*

THIS is the second part of a letter from National Institute of Physics assistant professor Perry Esguerra, head training coach, where he discussed the country's performance in the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO):

The IPhO is a competition among preuniversity students, and in our neighboring countries, they are usually 18 to 20 years old. Our students are usually aged 15 to 17, but they have managed to hold their ground.

However, in a highly competitive century, it does not hurt to try to improve things by looking at what our neighboring Asian countries have been doing well. The 18- and 19-year-olds of Asia are outperforming their counterparts from the rest of the world; we want our 15- to 17-year-olds to outperform the 18- and 19-year-old Asians.

Let me enumerate the challenges that we have to overcome.

Our delegates have been exposed to physics for a shorter time than the competition.

In many high schools here, the exposure to physics is only for one year; in the science high schools it can be two years (or three, but the mathematical sophistication of second year high school physics is not very high).

In the Asian countries that have done well, the two years exposure to physics happens in ordinary high schools. Their science high schools have much longer exposure.

Thus, although we have a bigger population, we have a much smaller base to choose from compared to other countries. If the national plan to make physics optional pushes through, this base will become even smaller.

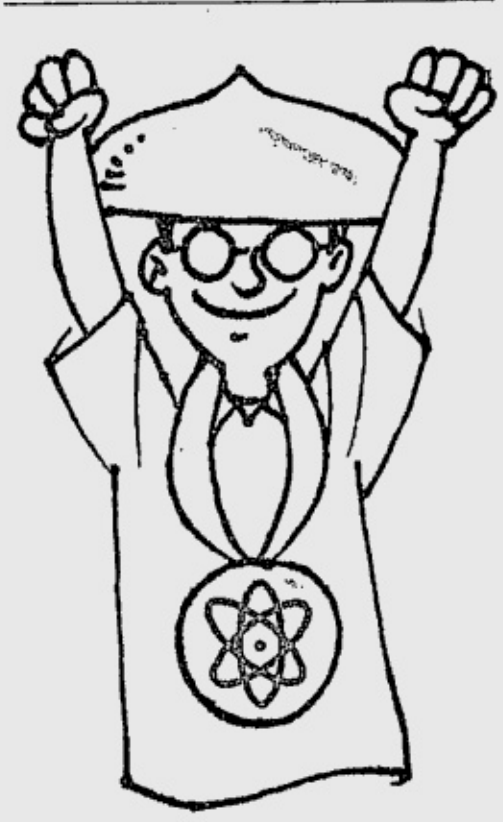
### Shorter training

With the exception of the 1999 team, our teams have gone through shorter training periods than the competition, usually just one summer, because of lack of funding.

Without a guarantee that there would be money for travel and other expenses, it's not good to start training. It would be heartless to ask students to give up their summer vacations and their weekends for almost a year and then tell them they can't go because there is no money.

EUREKA!

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*



The IPhO is usually held in July. Indonesia starts training in August; Taiwan and Thailand do this in October. Indonesian students work only on physics for almost a year. They do not need to attend any other high school subjects as they are guaranteed admission to any Indonesian university of their choice.

We have less resources available for training compared to the more successful Asian countries. Since 1999, there has been only one mainstay in the coaching staff (me). I'm usually able to convince one young MS Physics student or one new BS Physics graduate to help out.

In some countries, e.g. China, about 15 coaches are assigned to handle an initial group of 20 students starting in October. Singapore has the staff of the National Institute of Education to handle training.

### Experimental training

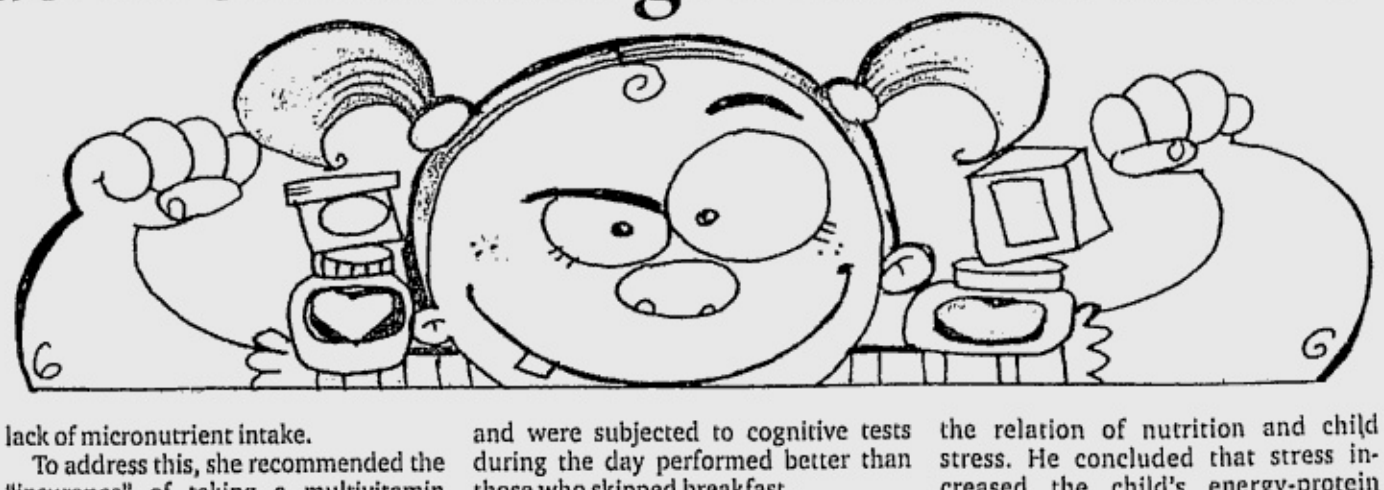
Our experimental training is almost nonexistent. The equipment used for the experimental problems in the Olympiads are usually custom designed.

The experiments encountered in the first two years of university physics are usually too simple for the Olympiads. The theoretical training though is quite good. If only the theoretical part was considered in the IPhO in 1999, one of our students would have landed in the top 5 percent and another in the top 30 percent.

Now there are several activities that can help improve the public image of physics here. 2005 will be the International Year of Physics. There will be a Philippine celebration. Some events can be accessed in the website http://www.geocities.com/sppofficers/IYOP/Calendar_IYOP_Phil.html.

Is there hope? I think there is. We do not need to fall for hoaxes in our effort to show Philippine triumphs. Just " Google" the following to see what some of the best minds of the next generation have accomplished: Adrian Solis, Rex Sayson, Sacha Chua, Juan Paolo Asis, Reinabelle Reyes, Joshua Jen Monzon and Felicia Maria Magpantay.

# World trends in children's growth and nutrition



IN THE FIRST international symposium on "Trends in Children's Growth and Nutrition" recently held in Bangkok, Thailand, delegates and nutrition experts from Southeast Asia pinpointed ways of improving the growth and nutrition trends in the region.

Concerned with promoting worldwide children's growth and nutrition, Kiddi Pharmaton, a Swiss-formulated children's multivitamin, hosted the one-day affair where distinguished speakers and experts in nutrition, child psychology and pediatrics shared their latest findings.

Leslie V. Beck, a registered dietician based in Canada and best-selling author of five books on nutrition, spoke on nutrition trends in developing countries.

### Unhealthy foods

She cited the increased intake of unhealthy food due to the emergence and convenience of fast-food outlets as a leading cause of high cholesterol and lack of micronutrient intake.

To address this, she recommended the "insurance" of taking a multivitamin supplement daily to prevent diseases caused by multivitamin and mineral deficiency such as impairment of the body's natural immune function.

Prof. Keith Wesnes, a clinical psychologist, emphasized the need for children to have breakfast before starting the day. His latest study revealed that children who had breakfast in the morning and were subjected to cognitive tests during the day performed better than those who skipped breakfast.

### Crucial growth years

He also stressed that the age of 6-12 years is the most important time to maintain a child's health as these are the crucial growth years.

Dr. Oscar Sanchez-Guerrero, a distinguished psychiatrist-pediatrician from Mexico, shared his findings on the relation of nutrition and child stress. He concluded that stress increased the child's energy-protein needs. This is because stress increases the metabolic rate of all bodily functions and to cope with this, a child will need the added nutrients like vitamins and minerals.

### Balanced formulation

Kathy Te, international product manager for Kiddi Pharmaton, emphasized the benefits of the balanced formulation of Kiddi Pharmaton.

She said Kiddi Pharmaton was scientifically formulated to address the multivitamin deficiencies and to supplement the growth needs of children around the world. This, she said, was the commitment of Kiddi Pharmaton in improving nutrition of children on a worldwide scale.

### Improving kid's nutrition

After the experts' presentations, the delegates broke into groups to discuss the nutrition situations in their respective countries and proposed different ways to improve children's nutrition.

These include increasing food availability in the rural areas, educating children on healthy food, requiring a food supplement for growing children, and involving parents and their doctors in ensuring that the children get the proper nutrition.

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# OBITUARIES

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104 years

Born on April 9, 1916 to the late spouses

**Atanacio Solis** and **Marciana Kasilag.**

## WALDY KASILAG SOLIS

**of Taal, Batangas**

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord*
*on December 17, 2004 at the age of 88.*

She is survived by her brother **Marciano K. Solis**, and nephews and nieces; **Dolores Aquino Holgado, Elvira Solis Salamat, Franca Solis Salazar, Franco Carolino Solis, Felipe Carolino Solis, Amancia Solis Ko, Florante Solis Carandang, Florencio Solis Carandang, Cita Carandang Chavez, Lourdes Solis Alcayde, Leonardo Vergara Solis, Lydia Vergara Solis, Imelda Solis Wong, Aida Solis Domecillo.**

She is the youngest sister of the late **Atanacia Solis Aquino, Judge Juan K. Solis, Macario K. Solis, Felix K. Solis, Vicenta Solis Carandang**, and **Dr. Martin K. Solis.**

Her body lies in state at the family residence in Taal, Batangas. Interment will be on Sunday, December 19, 2004 after the 12:00 noon Mass at the Basilica of St. Martin in Taal, Batangas.

Our Dearly Beloved

## DR. RICARDO GAELA IBARROLA, JR.

of Lucban, Quezon

*Peacefully joined our Lord on December 16, 2004*
*at the age of 73.*

(only child of **Ricardo Ibarrola** and **Adela Gaela**)

His loving wife **Concepcion**; children **Arleen Jenaro** and **Cecilia, Ricardo III, Gig** and **Gina**; grandchildren **Gabrielle, Gelline** and **Gian**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until December 19, 2004 and at his hometown residence in Lucban, Quezon from December 20 to 21, 2004.

Interment will be on December 21, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at the San Luis Memorial Park after the Mass at the Lucban Parish Church.

## FIGHTING WINDMILLS

## ATTY. WILLIAM T. CHUA

*October 6, 1955 – December 13, 2004*

*2003 Jose Rizal Awardee for Excellence*
*Human Rights Champion*

Quietly, he worked to help the poor, downtrodden and the victims of oppression. He was a light in the dark. He was our classmate, our brother.

We will miss you dearly, William, our man for others.

XAVIER '72 DRAGONS

## DR. HILARION (LARRY) BORJA BUENAVENTURA

**of Lucena City**

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on December 16, 2004 at the age of 77.*

He is survived by his wife **Carmelita Goduco Buenaventura**; his children **Benedict, Dominic, Michael, Noel, Andrea, Gina, Carmela & Angela**; grandchildren, brothers and sister, relatives & friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lies in his residence at Carmelite Subd. Lucena City.

**Interment to be announced later.**

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Our Dearly Beloved

# ROMEO ROMUALDO INES

**Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 16th day of December 2004 at the age of 66.**

He is survived by his wife Aida, children Sheila & Ivan, Jojo, Erwin and grandchildren Lucas, Noah, and Liam.

His body lies in state at the Lumbang Chapel, 2/F La Funeraria Paz (inside Manila Memorial Park), Dr. A. Santos Ave. (Sucat Road), Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at Manila Memorial Park, Dr. A. Santos Ave. (Sucat Road), Parañaque City after the 2:00 pm Holy Mass.

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS**
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any Identification document (I.D.)
**WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS**
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# KC PEREZ DE VENECIA

(April 6, 1988 – December 17, 2004)

Beloved daughter to Speaker Jose and Georgina de Venecia, wonderful sister to Alexandra Haner, Leslie Norton, Vivian Garcia, Jose de Venecia III, Carissa Cruz, Felipe Cruz III, best friend and sister to Christopher de Venecia and granddaughter to Azucena Vera Perez.

A fun-loving, passionate, sweet, intelligent girl who lived life to the fullest. She spoke her mind freely and loved with all her heart. Please pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati. Interment will be on December 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the KC de Venecia Foundation.

**The Department of Tourism and its attached agencies**

express their sincerest sympathies to the family of

## CATALINA SANTOS-DAKUDAO

Tourism Attache - London

Born 16 October 1956
Died 13 October 2004

**We join her family in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.**

Her body will arrive from London, England on Saturday, 18 December 2004 and will lie in state at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City with a necrological Mass on Sunday, 19 December 2004 at 5:00 p.m. It will be flown home to Davao City on Monday, 20 December 2004.

**"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."**
2 Corinthians 5:8

*"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."* **John 11:25-26**

# NERI Y. TAN

*Peacefully joined his Creator on December 14, 2004 at the age of 58.*

His wife **Mercedes**; his children **Christopher Jones**, **Christopher Neil**, **Chrissy Nigel**, and **Christian Marc Milo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at The Heritage Park at The Fort in Taguig City.

His ashes will be placed in its final resting place at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati.

# PAZ BABST LOPEZ

*Peacefully joined her Creator on December 16, 2004 at the age of 99.*

Her beloved husband **Bernardo** (†), children **Francisco, S.J.** (†), **Alicia** and **Pablo Sr.** (†), **Bernardo** (†) and **Emma**; grandchildren **Raymond** and **Brenda**, **Peppon** and **Liza**, **Ricky** and **Sandy**, **Charry**, **Ditas** and **Francis**; great-grandchildren **Crisa, Patricia, Pepe, Ingrid** and **Luisa**, request you in celebrating Lola Paz's coming home to the Lord.

Her remains lie in state at the Ateneo de Manila High School Chapel, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, December 19, 2004 at 8:00 AM at the Ateneo de Manila High School Chapel.

Interment will follow after the mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

*"Ako ang Muling Pagkabuhay, sinuman ang naniniwala sa akin kahit siya'y mamatay ay muling mabubuhay"* ***John 11:25-26***

**Ang aming minamahal na si**

# EUSEBIA SORIANO BARCELON

**(ng Pulilan, Bulacan at New Manila, Quezon City)**

*ay payapang bumalik sa Tahanan ng Ama noong ika 15 ng Disyembre 2004 sa edad na 89.*

Ang kanyang mga anak na sina LEONCIO, RENATO at VICKY; FR. TERRY, SJ, TERESITA; mga apo, kamag-anak at kaibigan ay humihingi ng inyong panalangin para sa kapayapaan ng kanyang kaluluwa na ngayo'y muling nakasama ng kanyang yumaong asawa, si EMETERIO.

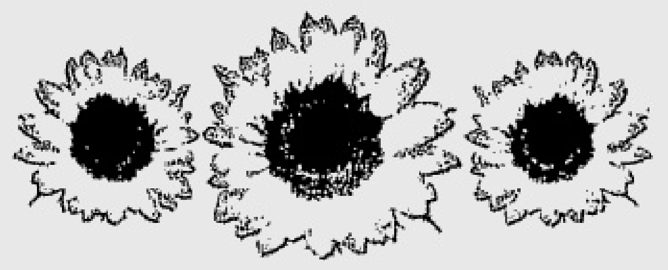
Ang paglalamay ay idinaraos sa Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Ang libing ay sa Linggo, ika-19 ng Disyembre, 2004 sa Sementeryo ng La Loma, Quezon City, pagkatapos ng banal na Misa.

**Para sa karagdagang impormasyon tumawag sa 681-9940**

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Corinthians 4:14



# Catalina "Kiling" Santos Dakudao

*October 16, 1956 - December 12, 2004*

*Our beloved **Kiling**, peacefully joined our Lord on December 12, 2004 at the age of 48.*

*Her husband **Ricardo**; children **Marica** and **Rico**; son-in-law **Carlo Buenaflor**; grandchildren **Sebastian** and **Sophie**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.*

*She will lie in state at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish, Magallanes on Sunday, 19 December 2004. She will then be flown to Davao on Monday, 20 December to be with her family and friends in her hometown at the Chapel of the Saints, Shrine of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague, Matina, Davao City. Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday 22 December, 3:00pm.*

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Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan
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145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3376; 471-2675
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G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

• DAVAO

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Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

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Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145

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Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142, Fax (049) 531-4989
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Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

• PAMPANGA

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247

• RIZAL

OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0762; 697-0026; 650-7426; Fax : 697-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal; Tels. 649-5949; 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855

• ZAMBALES

DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
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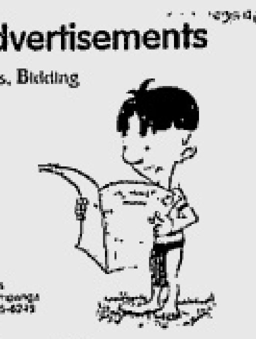

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
**OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION**
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 891-7601 to 24

# INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION through its Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested prospective bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **provision of Janitorial and Security Services for FY 2005** in accordance with the following terms and conditions

| PROJECT | BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT | PRE-BID CONFERENCE | DEADLINE OF BIDS SUBMISSION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Security Services | Php 7,038,480.00 | Dec. 20, 2004 8:30am | Dec. 28, 2004 8:30am |
| Janitorial Services | Php 7,801,983.72 | Dec. 20, 2004 1:30pm | Dec. 28, 2004 1:30pm |

2. Bid documents will be available for issuance beginning December 14, 2004 (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am to 4:00pm at 3rd Floor, OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison cor 7th St., Pasay City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

3. Interested prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat at these numbers : 833-0113 or 833-1010 (Telefax)

4. The public bidding process shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

5. OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality therein and/or minor defect in the bids received and to award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government.

**(sgd) ALBERT Q. VALENCIANO**
**BAC Chairperson**

**09 December 2004**

(PDI--Dec. 18, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION
VIRAC, CATANDUANES

Land Reg. Case No. N-200 LRA Record No. N-75900

**NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING**

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila, the Regional Executive Director, Region V DENR, Legazpi City, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila, the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, all in Virac, Catanduanes, Celestino Fidor, Pedro Orandain, Jacinto Tablizo, Benita Camacho, all in Sta. Elena, Virac, Catanduanes, National Road, c/o DPWH, Virac, Catanduanes **AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by **ELSIE ORANDAIN, JOSIE F. ORANDAIN and MARILOU ORANDAIN, Sta. Elena, Virac, Catanduanes thru: Atty. Bruno S. Cabrera, Virac, Catanduanes** praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land

A parcel of land (Lot 1407 of plan Ap-05-004982, Cad-1039-D, Virac, Cadastre), situated in the Barangay of Sta. Elena (Poblacion), Municipality of Virac, Province of Catanduanes, Island of Catanduanes. Bounded on the SW., along line 6-1, by 1410, along 1-2, by Lot 1414, on the NW., along line 2-3 by Lot 1416, along line 3-4, by Lot 1400, on the NE., along line 4-5, by Lot 1409 (1.00 m. wide) Lane, and on the SE., along line 5-6, by Lot 1408, beyond National Road (20.00 m. wide, all of Cad-1039-D, Virac Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on the plan being N. 41 deg. 40'E., 790.73 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-1039-D, Virac Cadastre.

thence N. 27 deg. 24'W., 10.41 m. to point 2;
thence N. 57 deg. 42'E., 9.36 m. to point 3,
thence N. 59 deg. 17'E., 3.58 m. to point 4;
thence S. 32 deg. 40'E., 15.25 m. to point 5,
thence S. 58 deg. 42'W., 13.73 m. to point 6,
thence N. 34 deg. 42'W., 4.74 m. to point of

beginning, containing an area of **TWO HUNDRED SIX (206) SQUARE METERS**. All corners referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15x40 cm. Bearings, grid, date of original survey on Aug. 19, 1991 and that of the subdivision survey on Jan. 21, 2002 by Geodetic Engineer, Alberto J. Lorenzana and was approved on July 10, 2002.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at the Municipal Trial Court, Virac, Catanduanes, Philippines, **on the 11th day of January, 2005 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon**, then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness the **HON. ARSENIO N. BASE, Jr.**, Acting Presiding Judge of said Court the 24th day of August 2004.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 30th day of September, 2004.

ATTEST:

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO B. ULEP**
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By:

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR L. ORIEL**
Chief, Docket Division

A True Copy:
(Sgd.) **GLORIETA P. LACAMBRA**
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDI-Dec. 18, 2004)

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**INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"**
**Damaged Motor Vehicles**

2002 Toyota Corolla Altis/XEM-146
2001 Toyota Revo Wagon/WTB-174
1999 Nissan Sentra/WJX-375
1996 Mitsubishi Lancer/UFD-532

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel.#878-54-57

(PDI - Dec. 18 & 19, 2004)

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**NEW GAMING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

SUBIC DIAMOND CASINO, an international operation located in Subic Bay Freeport and opening in March 2005, is now hiring staff. If you are suitably qualified for any of the positions listed and have a pleasant personality we require your services. You will need to have a desire to work in the gaming industry and be prepared to undergo a rigorous pre-selection and interview process.

## A. TRAINEE DEALERS

- Must not have previous gaming experience

## B. VIP SERVICES

- VIP Services Executive
- VIP Services Host
- VIP Receptionist
- Guest Relations Officer

**All applicants for the above Positions A & B must meet the following criteria:**

- Filipino Nationality
- University Graduate
- Good spoken Chinese (Fukien, Cantonese or Mandarin) is an advantage
- Good spoken and written English
- Age between 22-29
- Strong emphasis on personal appearance (and mathematics for Trainee Dealers)

Subic Diamond offers an attractive remuneration package and other fringe benefits to the successful candidate. We will also provide all training, uniforms and meals. Applications must be received no later than 05th January 2005.

## C. BUSINESS ACCOUNTANT

- University Graduate of Accountancy and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Minimum 5 years working experience in a corporate role, preferably in entertainment / servicing industry
- Familiar with Philippine Tax (BIR) and compliance with Corporate Accounting requirements
- Goal achiever, possesses leadership skills, self motivated and can work with minimum supervision
- Must possess excellent communication skills -- good written & spoken English essential and good Fukien preferable
- Recommending, designing and implementation of any necessary cost control
- Prepare monthly financial statements, report changes in cashflow status and budget variance as well as monthly inventory evaluations
- Knowledgeable in payroll, computerized bookkeeping and other aspects of accounting process
- Highly analytical and must be computer literate

All positions, please send your application with full resume, two recent photographs, and contact phone number to:

The Personnel Department, Subic Diamond Casino, Rm 114, Charlie Building, Subic International Hotel, Rizal cor. Sta. Rita Road, Subic Bay Free Port Zone, Olongapo City, Philippines 2200.
**Or Email: s_benl@hotmail.com**

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**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
Quezon City

# INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of the following items for use at the NFA Central Office as follows:

| LOT | ITEMS | APPROVED BUDGET |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 units Digital Camera, SLR | 490,500.00 |
| 2 | 181 pieces tokens (plaque for 5-years service awardees) | 80,000.00 |
| 3 | 15,600 containers of 5 gallons each Purified Water | 500,000.00 |

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| December 11 to 27, 2004 | Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents and Submission of Letter of Intent |
| December 28, 2004 (10:00 AM) | Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Floor, NFA Boardroom |
| January 11, 2005 (9:00 - 9:45 AM) | Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA Submission of Eligibility documents and bid proposals |
| (10:00 AM) | Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals |

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Eligibility requirements and bidding documents may be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor Tengsico Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon payment of P1,000.00, non-refundable fee. The Letter of Intent specifying the equipment/item to be bidded should be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than the close of business hours of December 28, 2004. Bids for any or all lots should conform with the Bidder's Letter of Intent. For further inquiries, please call Mr. Jose D. Chua at Tel. No. 712-6813 (direct line) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 8923.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chair

(PDI – December 11 & 18, 2004)

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# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**EMMIE G. SIDAYON**, former Kabankalan Cashier, is no longer connected with **PACIFIC PLANS, INC.** since March 26, 2003.

**DARLENE P. MONTEJO**, former Cebu Posting Clerk, is no longer connected with **PACIFIC PLANS, INC.** since April 10, 2002.

**ROSALINDA P. PARAS**, former Sales Counselor with Code No. 79206 under the Quezon City Sales Office (QUESO) 1, is no longer connected with **PACIFIC PLANS, INC.** since November 13, 2003.

**Any transactions entered into by the above on behalf of the company will no longer be honored as of their respective dates of separation.**

PACIFIC PLANS
A YGC Member

(PDI - Dec. 18, 2004)

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**

DepEd Procurement Service
December 17, 2004
IFB No. PISU-CO/332004

To : **All Eligible Supplier**

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd)-Third Elementary Education Project intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Eight Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Pesos (Php2,886,840.00)** being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for Printing and Delivery of NSBA 2005 Test Booklets. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Department of Education-Third Elementary Education Project through the Bids and Awards Committee now invites sealed Bids from eligible Security Printers/Bidders for Printing and Delivery of NSBA 2005 Test booklets. The required number of test booklets are as follows:

| Grade Level | Form A | Form B | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grade 2 | 5,346 | 5,346 | 10,692 |
| Grade 4 | 5,346 | 5,346 | 10,692 |
| Grade 6 | 5,346 | 5,346 | 10,692 |
| Grand Total | 16,038 | 16,038 | 32,076 |

Delivery of the printed test booklets is at DepEd-Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) Central Project Implementation Support Unit (CPISU). It is required that the **bidder should bid for all the total quantities.**

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and secure the bidding documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) with office address at 112-A Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Tel. # (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 local 2019, Fax # (632) 636-6542 starting **December 20, 2004**, or visit the DepEd website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased upon submission of a letter of intent to the above address and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) to the Cashier's Office. The form of payment will either be in cash or by Cashier's/Manager's Check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City on or before 10:00 A.M. on **January 20, 2005** and must be accompanied by a security in the form of bank guarantee of not less than 1.5% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), while if cash, cashier's or certified check or irrevocable letter of credit of not less than one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **2:00 P.M. on January 20, 2005**, at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **January 6, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at the venue indicated in paragraph 7

9. The DepEd BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Dec. 18 & 24, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
**HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION**

# INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting all interested parties to participate in the re-bidding of the long-term lease for the property described below pursuant to the decision of the HGC Board of Directors to re-bid the same:

| | |
|---|---|
| PROJECT | : VILLONGCO AREA NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER - COMMONWEALTH ENTERPRISE ZONE PROJECT |
| LOCATION | : COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, QUEZON CITY |
| AREA | : 8,222 SQ.M. |
| MINIMUM BID PRICE | : P80.00 per sq.m. per month |
| LEASE PERIOD | : 25 years |

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuance of bid documents including eligibility requirements | January 10, 2005 |
| Pre-bid conference | January 17, 2005 |
| Start of submission of eligibility requirements | January 24, 2005 |
| Deadline of submission of eligibility documents and opening of eligibility documents (Pass/Fail Criteria) | February 7, 2005 |
| Issuance of notice of eligibility | February 10, 2005 |
| Deadline for submission of bids and opening of bids | March 10, 2005 |

The bidder is advised to inspect the subject property to determine its actual condition. Particulars of the bidding may be obtained from the Secretariat, Asset Disposal Committee-Villongco Area, NGC-CEZP at the 4th Floor, JADE Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Other inquiries relative to the bidding may be made at tel. nos. 897-32-90/897-32-86.

Bid documents shall be available to interested bidders starting January 10, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00. Eligibility requirements should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Secretariat, Asset Disposal Committee-Villongco Area, NGC-CEZP on or before February 7, 2005. The opening of the eligibility envelopes will be held on February 7, 2005 at 10:00 A.M., the last day of the submission of eligibility documents.

Sealed bids should be submitted to the Secretariat, Asset Disposal Committee - Villongco Area, NGC-CEZP on or before 10:00 A.M., March 10, 2005, at the 4th Floor, JADE Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The sealed bid should be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 10% of one year rental in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC.

THE HGC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS; TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **ARTHUR G. TAN**
Chairman
Asset Disposal Committee
Villongco Area, NGC-CEZP

(PDI - Dec. 18 & 26, 2004)

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON**
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

# INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all security printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages/lots:

| PACKAGE | DESCRIPTION | APPROVED BUDGET |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | • Printing & Packaging of 2005 NAT Test Booklets for Grade 6 and Year IV<br>• Delivery of Test Booklets, Answer Sheets and Non-Classified Materials<br>• Retrieval of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets | P 18,420,000.00 |
| 2 | • Printing, Packaging of 2005 National Achievement Test (NAT) Test Booklets for Year 1 (for Regular and Bridge)<br>• Delivery of Test Booklets, Answer Sheets and Non-Classified Materials<br>• Retrieval of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets | P 9,587,000.00 |
| 3 | • Printing, Packaging of Reading Test in English and Filipino Test Booklets for Grade II<br>• Delivery of Test Booklets, Answer Sheets and Non-Classified Materials<br>• Retrieval of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets | P 2,600,000.00 |
| 4 | • Printing of 2005 National Achievement Test & Reading Test Non-Classified Materials for Grade VI, Year I (Regular and Bridge, III & IV (NAT) and Grade II (Reading Test) | P 1,450,000.00 |

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) starting **December 20, 2004 - January 14, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph*. A pre-bid conference will be held on **January 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **January 20, 2005** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI - Dec. 18 & 24, 2004)

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

**RATE**
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of 12-VAT)

**DEADLINE**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication


## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

#### RIZAL

Cradled by the verdant hills of Antipolo, this well-designed community features Italian-inspired homes, surrounded by the amenities of comfortable living.

*Monthly amortization is as low as* **P11,000.**

*For inquiries, please call* **634-9001 to 02**
**www.crownasia.com.ph**

Crown Asia

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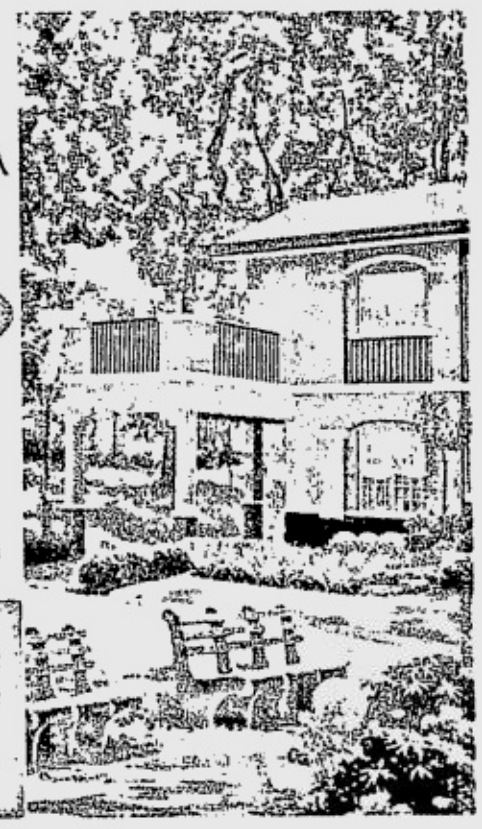
LA MONTAGNA ESTATES

P9,000/month

Located in Teresa, Rizal, this peaceful community offers many attractions.

*For inquiries, please call*
**634-9001 to 02.**
**www.crownasia.com.ph**

Crown Asia



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Introducing
**The Terraces,**
the newest phase of **Maia Alta,**
a fully-integrated community on the verdant hills of Antipolo.
Choose from 5 Italian-inspired model homes called the Crown Jewels.
What's more you can enjoy the good life at a price so light!

*Monthly amortization is*
*as low as P11,000.*

*For inquiries, please call*
634-9001 to 02
www.crownasia.com.ph

The Terraces of Maia Alta

Crown Asia

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### MEDICAL

#### DENTAL

LADY DENTIST 744-6206 / 09178732057

#### PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

**GARMA CLINIC**
**VD SPECIALIST**
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao, Q. C. back of Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

### PERSONAL

#### MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

AKHIN THAI MASGE #8347357

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MALE MASSAGE
PINK
374-8480

MALE MASSUER 8535399 DAN

MASSAGE 8545348 WARREN

MR. UNIVERSE SPA
Tel. No. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

MSGE M-F 09192714842 ANJO

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE 7520018

#### REFLEXOLOGY

BODYLAX 4144488

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

i-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

Jojo HMS 0920-8635511

REFLEX 09273045599 JOHN

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

#### TUTORIAL LESSONS

LIGHT 5268216 / 5301315

#### MISCELLANEOUS

AIRCON SERVICES 09192963311

## QUEZON CITY

**Avail of the Christmas promo before the "Price Increase" effective January 1, 2005!**

Single detached / No Identical Units
Ready For Occupancy / Near Ateneo - UP – Miriam

FMPNI
FIRST MANDALUYONG PROPERTY NETWORK INC.
Tel:727-6915 * 668-2126 * 09175226950
Email : fmpni@yahoo.com

OWNER/ DEVELOPER:
JELP REAL ESTATE DEV. CORP.
Mobile No. 0918-9388798
HLURB License to Sell No. 06232

## CONDO/TWNHSE

### PARANAQUE

### MANILA

BAYWATCH TOWER
M.H. Del Pilar St., Ermita, Manila
(at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard Manila)

ENJOY THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF MANILA BAY UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE!
Furnished and Unfurnished
5236640 / 5236630
AVAILABLE
Studio, 1, 2 and 3 BR
READY FOR OCCUPANCY

## HOUSE & LOT

### MANILA

SAMPALOC 161LA 6830877

SAN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/2br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

### MANDALUYONG

Sacrifice Sale - FATIMA 5322115 0917-8255123

### MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

### QUEZON CITY

• 124Scout Castor 9210255 •

•#131K-3rd Kamuning•
9210255 9219967 9220547

**Comm'l 3Storey** Fully Tenanted Income. Justice L. Paredes Sandiego Avenue (Formerly Main Ave.) Cubao Q.C. 372-4352 • 372-4365

Fil 1 QC Cheap 0918-5860132

P5.5M Bnew nr Cong. Ave 5BR 4TB attic 2CG #5 Narra St. Violago Phase3 Visayas Ave & 2.8M T. Sora nr U.P. 9322650 / 09228006313

### BAGUIO

2Floors Unit Hse 700sqm Lot near John Hay. Ideal for 2 Families P8.9M 0921-7033564

### BULACAN

GROTTO AREA 225T 9390299

Meycauayan 2br 2tb 1cg P1.6M Bnew 0917-8550207

## COMML/RESDL

### MAKATI

(1) Office/Residential Condo Unit for Sale (3.1M)

4th & 5th Flrs. w/ Attic,
U-4/5-3 Sunshine Cond.
9633 Kamagong St., SA Village,
Makati City
Floor area of 111.60 square meters
For Inquiries contact:
Rey Jaucian - 8940012-13
Mobile No. 09193580236/
E-mail: rjaucian@pana.com.ph
Brokers are Welcome!

## COMMERCIAL

### SAN JUAN

4-STOREY BLDG IDEAL FOR OFC W/WAREHOUSE LOT AREA 523M² FLR AREA BLDG 500M² FLR AREA W/HOUSE 200M² FLR AREA XCLUDE 6CAR DRIVEWAY SAN JUAN P16M 0917-8466242 MIKO

## HOUSE & LOT

### BULACAN

Near Grotto 650T 9390299

### CAVITE

CANYON RANCH
HOMES AT HILLTOP
ROLLING TERRAIN
FOR AS LOW AS 8K/MO
CALL OR TEXT 09189337125

### LAGUNA

BINAN RFO 400T 5201792

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

P700T 10% D/P RFO 1st class dev't Calamba 09194539350

## CONDO/TWNHSE

### MAKATI

**1.1M C5 Nr The Fort**
10T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

NR LA SALLE TAFT Bnew /Twnhse/4sty/3br/3tb/mds rm 1-2 cr grgeldeck P3.610M up 8903461

### MANDALUYONG

2BR 2TB w/parking Pioneer hilands P4.7M 825-4698

**Pinnacle Wack² 4BR**
SALE/RENT • 0917-5325440

### PASIG

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE. RESORT-TYPE, 1st Class 2-4BR P13T/ mo. or NoDP or 0% Boss • 0917-5234223

### QUEZON CITY

**Ayala Woodside NMla**
SALE/RENT • 0917-5325440

CUBAO Condo 2BR P2.2M RFO 4396452/0920-9051246

CUBAO P1.5M Terms 9126976

Luxurious Low 500T-12M Furn 9415641/0927-3925928

TEACHER'S VILL QC Brandnew Mahabagin St 9132701 / 09189356366

## CONDO/TWNHSE

### RIZAL

CAINTA 2BR 850k 8,500/mo 439-6462 / 0920-9051246

## LOT

### KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA274m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

### PARANAQUE

Southbay Village Sucat 516Sqm Rush 0915-4638899

### PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

### QUEZON CITY

**Capitol Golf Hills Subd**
NR AYALA HTS 0917-5325440

Rd 20 Proj. 8, 1,418m²@ P14T/m² Cong. Ave Ext. 451m² @ 8T/m² Proj 6 nr SM Nrth 267m²@3.6M DBO. 0917-8997547 Jona

### RIZAL

1,500sqm Comml/Resdl San Mateo 475-1125 / 0917-8236522

RICHMOND EXEC COMMERCIAL CAINTA 200m²P6T@164m²P5T@ Rush 9488240 / 6337371

### OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

### BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

### BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

### CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### HOUSEHOLD

#### HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4386920

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Good Maid Yaya Cook 4214652

Good Maid Yaya Boy 7502197

Good Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8503

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

PACIFIC MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

#### LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833-LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT




## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

### HOUSE & LOT

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TEACHER'S VILL QC Brandnew Mahabagin St 9132701 / 09189356366

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DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### LOT

**CAVITE**

MEADOWOOD EXEC VILL LA 220m² P1.2M neg call MERZ 7785470 / 0917-8409951

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5br P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

**LAGUNA**

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

**MANDALUYONG**

2Brms w 2TB in Private Compound Ask 4 Mandy at 533-92-25 or 0917-8340519

**PARANAQUE**

BUNG, 3BR, PKG 09216534504

MARIMAR New 3BR 2TB Grg nr Skyway SM Bic 823-2885

**QUEZON CITY**

3BR SERRAMONTE VILLAS FILINVEST2 0917-7182116 JUN

Tnding Sora 2sty 3BR3TB big grge P35T/mo. 2mos. advnce & 2 mos. dpct 0917-8997547

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MANILA**

BAYBRIDEG HOMES NR NAGTAHAN BRIDGE 9289541/7361925

**QUEZON CITY**

CUBAO 2BR Furn P15T spacious good loc 6461603

PHILAM HOMES FRNT EDSA QC Bldg 2 UNT 7 9289541 7361925

### APARTMENT

**MAKATI**

STUDIO Size 5T T870-85-41

**MANILA**

2BR w/grg 5636296/5510197

**QUEZON CITY**

15T Good Location w/AC Big Rooms Garage 938-0816

**SAN JUAN**

A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

### WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Cubao fabshp 500m² 7257342

### ROOM & BOARD

1BR w/AC TB Mkt 8992148

Chin Gen Area 7836781

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Mkt.Condo M/F Nice/Prkg 8979417

P200! Sucat Pque 8275345

### BEDSPACE

LDY Cvte 09178502059 Ruby

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

Nw studio lady 3.5T 9137513

### BUSINESS RENTAL

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75 & 50 m² 9289541 / 7361925 IDEAL FOR SPA GYM CALL CENTER

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 6903461 loc 25/23

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

**IN NEED OF PROPERTY?**
**For Rent or For Sale**
H&L/Lot/Condo/Olc/Whse
Pacific Plaza FORT/AYALA
Essensa/Regent/Rockwell
Paseo Park View/Tower
Shang Grand Twr/Serendra
Columns/Prince Plaz2/U1514
Nice Tagaytay Highlands
Ayala/Britany/Megaworld
Pre-Selling or R.F.O.
BEST BUY or INVESTMENT!
Let us HELP YOU find it
ALDRIN G. 0918-9392979
Property Provider Group
Tel. # 7181154/REBL#17853

## OTHER REAL ESTATE

### REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKERS CEP 4382966

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**BMW**

BMW316i Nov'01 Aqcrd Blue well kept C2 apprec 1.150M 0917-8111575/9270207

**FORD**

02 Ford EXP 0918-5860132

**HONDA**

02 Civic VTI 555T a/t 9254566

03 CRV M/T Green 800T 8153070

**MERCEDES**

'97 E230 Black Elegance Imported CASA Maintained with Sunroof, 35Tkm See to appreciate Call 0920-9040510

Red MBenz P495T 8133827/8

**MITSUBISHI**

GALANT VR6 94 RUSH SALE 0915-4638899

**NISSAN**

97 Cefiro A/T Blk 295T 8153070

Cefiro A/T 340T neg 4267915

**TOYOTA**

00 Revo SR a/t 475T 9254566

**OTHER CAR BRANDS**

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Terrano Safari Rvr Serena Delica Space Gear Estima Vanette Largo Elf Canter T-in 9120647 / 09178342020

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

ABC RENT A CAR
NEW CARS & VANS
PAJERO • HI-ACE
REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CALA • CRV • LYNX • 536-8022
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

### CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CAR LOAN

1.5% CAR LOAN 534-4441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3746765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7226942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 5315577

2% w/oTaking Car 6870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

### BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

### CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

RUSH SALE B-NEW G.E. CIRCUIT BREAKER 1,200AMPH 642-5188

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

ANTI-ASTHMA 0917-8451373

Parlor/Sauna Eqpt 09178114261

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

### OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Xerox Machine 0917-8114261

### PETS

BELGIAN MALINOIS 2MOS 15T F 13T M Imported line 0917-5220620 / 9253708

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

•PUGS•SHARPEI 3725231

**PCCI**
331th PCCI & 29th FCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
METRO MARKET MARKET
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
TAGUIG, METRO MANILA
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. Johan Juslin
(Finland)
Ms. Narelle Hammond
(Australia)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Sporting Grp & Terrier Grp
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Hound Group / Toy Group
Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting Grp & Herding Grp
12:30 PM 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
CORPORATE SPONSORS:
ADVANCE
Science Diet

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### PETS

PHIL . DOG SCHOOL
Introduced K9 Training In the Phil. Trains w/K9 Psychology & w/Full Guarantee Tel. 721-3736

SHIH TZU PUPS 8123216

### WANTED TO BUY

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE' LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4507017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
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WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

WE BUY
JEWELRY, DIAMONDS
ROLEX, PAWNTICKETS
& Other Swiss Watches Fast Cash
09163422208 • 09155547779

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

### MISCELLANEOUS

Indl'l Leather Gloves & Apron 4 Sale 0917-8550207

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Alw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of JUNE 2004 will be auctioned on DEC. 23, 8:30 am. - Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI DECEMBER 18, 2004)

MUNOZ-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, Roosevelt Ave., Katipunan, Diliman, Quezon City. All unredeemed pledges of JULY 2004 will be auctioned on DEC. 23, 3:00 PM. - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.
(PDI - DECEMBER 18, 2004)

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of late GREGORIO N. PANDES was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc.5658 Page 13 Book 477 Series of 2003 before Notary Public Jose L. Ma. Santos of Quezon City
PDI-Dec.4,11&18, 2004

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROD B. NAVARRO was extrajudicially settled among the heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc.1271 Page 6 Book 2 Series 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Dollin R. Agcaoili, Jr. of Quezon City.
PDI-Dec.18,25 & Jan.1, 2004

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FAUSTINO CRUZ was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc15; Page 3; Book 90; Series of 2004 by Notary Public Jose L. Sta Ana of Marikina City.
(PDI-Dec. 11, 18, 25, '04)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORBERTO E. ABODON has been extrajudicially settled with an affidavit of self adjudication by his heirs as per docs 89 & 90 ; page 18; book3 ; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Jocelyn A. Ratuita

### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

IDLE CARS/VANS? Earn Regular Monthly Y 2001 up MDL only 303-9789

EARN P5T up/week HOW? share d bisnez 0920-9112910

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

For fast and accurate information on power supply situation nationwide during the holiday season, simply call the following numbers:

National Control Center (Diliman, Quezon City)
**920-0073 * 922-0487**

Visayas Regional Control Center **(032) 346-1500**
Mindanao Regional Control Center **(063) 223-0188**

Luzon Area Control Centers
**South Luzon** (049) 411-5887
**North Luzon** (074) 444-7424
**Central Luzon** (045) 966-0812
**Bicol** 0918-9135543

Visayas Area Control Centers
Bacolod (034) 708-7123
Leyte (053) 561-2273
Bohol (038) 500-1643

Mindanao Area Control Centers
Butuan (085) 342-3360
Cagayan de Oro 0918-9231977
General Santos (083) 554-7624
Davao (082) 293-1359
Zamboanga (062) 985-1173

**These numbers will be accessible 24 hours starting December 16, 2004 up to January 2, 2005. Please contact the numbers nearest you.*

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Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
MUNICIPALITY OF PATIKUL
Province of Sulu
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) It is intended that the part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Patikul, Sulu as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium A or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and to bid for

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | Concreting of Provl. Junction-Bonbon FMR |
| Approved Budget for the Contract | Php 9,454,620.34 |
| Estimated Duration | 147 CD |
| Scope of Work | Concreting of 2,440.48 meters FMR |

Minimum Required Equipment:

| No. of Units | Description | Capacity |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Transit Mixer | 4.5 Cu M |
| 2 | Road Grader | 180 HP |
| 1 | Pay loader | 1.0 Cu M. |
| 1 | Backhoe | 1.0 Cu M |
| 1 | Road Roller | 15 tons |
| 4 | Dump Truck | 6 Wheelers |
| 2 | Concrete Vibrator | 2 HP |
| 1 | Batching Plant | 5.0 Cu M |
| 1 | Water Truck | 2,000 Liters |

- Deadline for Submission of letter of Intent and Eligibility Requirements : January 03, 2005
- Issuance of Bidding Requirements : December 28, 2004
- Pre-Bid Conference : January 03, 2005
- Opening of Bids : January 21, 2005

3. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up information sheets from the BAC Secretariat. Eligibility requirement, in sealed envelopes, properly bound with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to Ms Luzminda Hayudini, municipal Planning Development Office, Municipal Hall, Taglibi, Patikul, Sulu.
4. Unless otherwise indicated in the instruction to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRR-A.
5. Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders by the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipal Hall, Taglibi, Patikul, Sulu, upon payments of non-refundable fee of Php 3,000.00
6. The implementing agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) OMAR-HASIM G. LAKIBUL
*BAC Chairman*

(PDI - Dec. 13,18 & 23, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

**BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS**
**In Compliance with RA 7041**

**PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – B**

**GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) II – Item Nos. OMBA-G102-31-1998; OMBA-G102-34-1998 and OMBA-G102-36; SG-27 (3 Positions)**

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Four (4) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative / criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Ra 1080 (BAR)

Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following: 1) AN APPLICATION LETTER STATING THE POSITION/ITEM APPLIED FOR; 2) DULY ACCOMPLISHED PERSONAL DATA SHEET (CSC FORM 212); 3) 1" x 1" PICTURE (COLORED); 4) BAR RATING / CSC CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY; 5) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS; 6) CERTIFICATE OF SEMINARS/TRAININGS ATTENDED (CSC ACCREDITED) and 7) CERTIFICATE FROM PREVIOUS/PRESENT EMPLOYMENT STATING THE POSITION, ACTUAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (IF APPLICABLE)

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PROJECT MANAGER w/min. 15yrs experience
PROJECT ENGINEER 10yrs exp in Geothermal & Power Plant Installation
LICENSED CIVIL ENGR 35yrs old & above, willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila.
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MC Engineering, #98 Sgt. Catolos St., Cubao T7270286

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION
VIRAC, CATANDUANES

Land Reg. Case No. N-201 LRA Record No. N-75901

**NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING**

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region V-DENR, Legazpi City; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman; the Director, Forest Management Bureau Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, all in Virac, Catanduanes; Juan Sarmiento, Hipolito Romero both in Rawis, Virac, Catanduanes Street c/o the Municipal Mayor, Virac, Catanduanes AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An amended application having been filed in the above entitled case by **JACIEL F. ORANDAIN, married to Jennifer C. Orandain, #17 Vietnam St., Better Living, Parañaque City** thru: **Atty. Bruno S. Cabrera, Virac, Catanduanes** praying for the registration and confirmation of the title of the following described land

A parcel of land (Lot 2199 of plan Ap-05-005000, Cad-1039-D, Virac Cadastre), situated in Barangay of Rawis, Municipality of Virac, Province of Catanduanes, Island of Catanduanes. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 2200 (Road widening claimed by Eufogio Orandain), beyond is the Acacia Street (10.00 m wide) on the SW., along line 2-3 by Lot 2200 (Road widening claimed by Eufogio Orandain), beyond Jose Saldua Street (10.00 m wide) on the NW., along line 3-4 by Lot 2185 and on the NE., along line 4-1 by Lot 2201, all of Cad-1039-D, Virac Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on the plan being N 50 deg 53'E 971.44 m from BLLM No. 1, Cad-1039-D, Virac Cadastre

thence S 57 deg 53'W., 14.97 m to point 2,
thence N 30 deg 48'W., 11.25 m to point 3,
thence N 58 deg 38'E., 14.85 m to point 4
thence S 31 deg 25'E., 10.05 m to point of

beginning containing an area of **ONE HUNDRED SIXTY SIX (166) SQUARE METERS**. All corners referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. Conc. Mons. 15x40 cm. Bearings grid, date of original survey on Aug. 19, 1991 and that of the plan prepared on Feb. 4, 2002 by Geodetic Engineer, Alberto J. Lorenzana and was approved on August 31, 2002.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at the Municipal Trial Court, Virac, Catanduanes, Philippines, **on the 11th day of January, 2005 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon** then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness the HON. ARSENIO N. BASE, Jr., Acting Presiding Judge of said Court the 24th day of August, 2004.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 30th day of September, 2004.

ATTEST

(Sgd.) BENEDICTO B. ULEP
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By:

(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL
Chief, Docket Division

A True Copy
(Sgd.) GLORIETA P. LACAMBRA
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDI Dec 18 2004)

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Eastwood City

# The Star of the Season

## Paskonsiyerto

AT EASTWOOD CITY WALK

Dec 18 (Sat.), 8 PM
**Pop Pasko**
**at Central Plaza**

A sparkling evening of
popular holiday tunes from:

Ogie Alcasid
Kyla
Luke Mejares
and
Ms. Regine Velasquez

*Directed by* Alexander Cortez
*Script by* Floy Quintos

Dec. 25 (Sat.), 8 PM
**Paskoral**
**at Central Plaza**

Enter the realm of the divine with
soul-stirring performances by:

UP Concert Chorus
Montserrat Singers
Bukas Palad
UP Singing Ambassadors
Joan Cano

*Directed by* Alexander Cortez
*Script by* Floy Quintos

Dec. 31 (Fri.), 8 PM
**Pagsalubong 2005**
**at Central Plaza**

Welcome the New Year
swinging to the funky
Latin beat of:

La Carlota
Sipol
Paze Band

*Directed by* Alexander Cortez
*Script by* Floy Quintos

Dec. 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30
(Tue./Thu.), 8 PM
**Voices of Christmas**

Eastwood City Walk 1 and 2
will reverberate with
Christmas tunes sung by:

The Blue Crew Choir

Dec. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28
(Mon./Tues.), 7 PM
**Acoustic Christmas**
**at Fuente Circle**

Relax with family and
friends while listening
to acoustic music from:

Surreal and Mosaic

Dec. 15, 22, 29
(Wed.), 7 PM
**Christmas Music**
**in the City**

Musicians playing flute, guitar,
violin and accordion will serenade you
with the season's melodies around
Eastwood City Walk.

### Holiday Toy Fair

Take your kids to a toy land of their dreams.
Up to 70% off on various items from leading toy distributors.
Toy Town, Dec. 4-31, Eastwood City Walk 2
Richwell Trading, all weekends of December, Eastwood City Walk 1

### Style Centrale

Now open (beside Fitness First) is Style Centrale.
Where you can be hip without hurting your pocket.

### Eastwood City Bazaar

Eastwood City's Night Market is back! Find all the Christmas
gifts you've been looking for in this paradise of great buys!
Over 40 stalls all around Eastwood City.

### Fireworks Galore!

Christmas won't be complete without
Eastwood City's weekend fireworks spectaculars.
All Fridays and Saturdays of December, 10 PM;
Dec. 31 (Fri.), 12 MN.

### Must-see Musical

What happens if Santa calls it quits?
Find out the answer in "December Hints of Mistletoe,"
a musical presented by the Koine Theater Group Foundation.
Dec. 3, 10, 17 (Fridays), 7PM, at Eastwood City Walk II.

**Eastwood City**

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Tel. 687-6770 to 74

# PROPERTY

# Ponderosa launches demo homes

By Charles E. Buban

PONDEROSA Leisure Farms recently introduced its demo unit to show its would-be owners the new life awaiting them at this 53-hectare property being developed by Landco Pacific Corp.

"This leisure farm was created to serve as a second home so the demo unit—called Casa Ponderosa—presents how satisfying and liberating it is being able to work on a generous amount of space (to plant on) set in an environment far from the noise and busy life of the city," said Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio, owner of the land where Ponderosa Leisure Farms is.

## Demo garden

Casa Ponderosa features a demo garden to give lot owners ideas on what they can do with their own gardens through a showcase of plants, various flowers, or even farm plots, using various agricultural methods.

Lot owners can also draw inspiration from the demonstration gardens, which showcase flower garden, vegetable, aquaculture, and herb and ornamental gardens.

## Three bedrooms

Casa Ponderosa features three bedrooms each having its own pocket garden that can be viewed from the toilet and bath.

The demo unit adopted a rustic Mexican-Spanish architectural design with the use of earth-tone stuccos, big picturesque windows overlooking scenic views, arched doorways, rustic tiles and living and dining room that features a terrace overlooking a landscaped lawn.

"Ponderosa is envisioned to be a community in bloom. It was created for garden lovers," said one of its marketing officials.

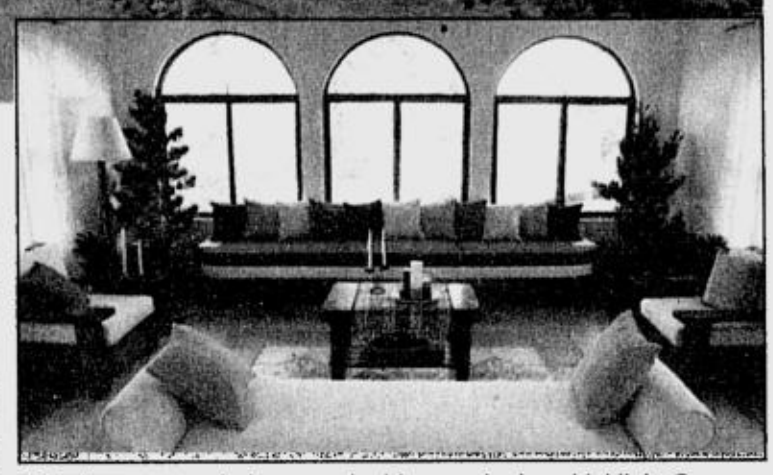
## 1,000-sq-m lot

Casa Ponderosa will be located on 1,000-sq-m lot, with up to 25 percent of which to be devoted for their homes and the remaining space to be used as an open space for flower farming, vegetable farming and other forms of gardening.

Since the whole property is designed for those into gardening as a recreation, the developer makes available gardening supplies and technology to lot owners and assures the maintenance of the garden whenever they are away.

Completing this first-class development are 24-hour security, potable water, communication and main electricity lines, 13-meter right-of-way, eight-meter concrete road carriage for the main road, six-meter concrete road carriage for the secondary road, and a concrete perimeter fence.

THE PATIO, which provides a beautiful view of the rising sun in the morning, is perfect for barbecue parties for families and friends.



BIG picturesque windows overlooking scenic views highlight Casa Ponderosa's stately living room.

NOLI Locsin of Sta. Lucia Realtor won the Black and Decker stool making challenge.

# *Ace Builders Center opens at SM Fairview*

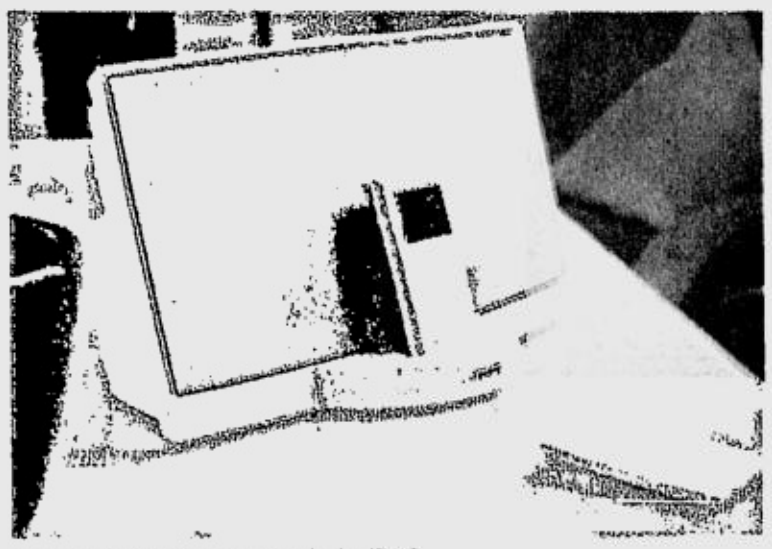
BUILDING a dream house is now as easy as shopping in the mall with the recent opening of the ACE Builder's Center at SM City Fairview.

This haven for home improvement and building supplies also includes an ACE Hardware outlet, a one-stop shop for DIY enthusiasts. As such, one can find a wide assortment of building products like lumber, pipes, fixtures along side power tools and electrical supplies all under one roof.

ACE/ B2-2

ACE personnel demonstrates decorating techniques for ACE Paints like glazing, rag rolling and sponging.

# Personal gadget for home use



THE BOSE SoundDock with the iPod

By Charles E. Buban

THERE is little doubt that Apple has a hit with its iPod. This portable music player about the size of a deck of cards has changed the way people listen to music.

But the iPod experience is usually a private one, confining its crisp digital sound to headphones stuck to one's ears.

"The huge popularity of the iPod has given rise to a variety of accessories, including this latest stereo speaker from Bose, which is designed to work with dockable iPods," said Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing Corp., exclusive distributors of Bose entertainment systems in the country.

## Expand and enhance

The Bose SoundDock digital music system was specifically designed to expand and enhance one's enjoyment of the music stored on the iPod or iPod mini.

"Just slip it into the docking cradle and the system will turn your iPod into a nice bedroom or living stereo system," said So.

At 30.26 cm wide, 16.89 cm high and 16.47 cm deep (at 2.1 kg), SoundDock's compact body will blend seamlessly into any room.

"It's slim profile complement most rooms and with its glossy white body and large, full-face metal grill, it can blend in with almost any decor," described So.

## Big in sound

Despite its small package, So said, the SoundDock has the ability to easily fill a decent-size room with music that most desktop systems would find it difficult to match.

"This particular product features active electronic equalization that balances output of all frequencies to provide natural tonal balance and clarity throughout the audio spectrum as well as a patented integrated signal processing that provides life-like, rich performance at almost any volume level," revealed So.

The SoundDock, which is available at all Bose showrooms, is one of the easiest to set up: just attach the dock slot adapter for the particular iPod size, connect the power cable, then place the iPod in the dock slot and enjoy the music.

The iPod is also charged while it's in the SoundDock.

# 5 things to watch out for when buying a condo

SO, you've decided that condo living is what suits you and you're really bent on giving it a try. What do you need to do to get started? If you are like most people, you already have a pretty clear idea of the specific living quarters you want to come home to, the kind of neighbors you would want to be mingling with, and most of all, the amount of resources you are willing to commit.

A checklist of your personal preferences will serve as an important guide in making a sensible decision. The goal is not to meet all your wants, which would most likely be impossible, but to manage your own expectations and avoid being overwhelmed with information.

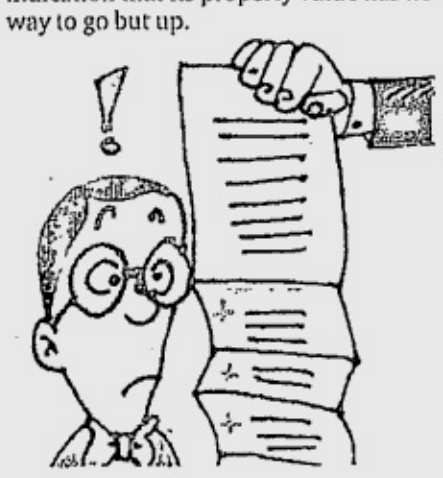
The next step is to shop for the best options you can find and weigh them against your checklist. Be advised that anyone could actually be enticed to buy based on things that may seem nice and important but actually things you can do without.

## Pitfalls to avoid

Here are five pitfalls to avoid when buying a condo:

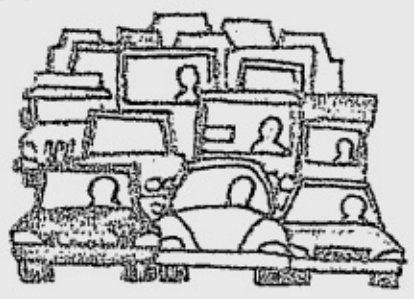
**1 The Grand Solitaire Syndrome/The Loner's Asylum Syndrome.** Unless you prefer solitude it would be so much better to live in a condo located in an area where other people desire to live. For one, it would be safer and more fun to live in a community. For another, your property would definitely increase in value if more and more people flock to your area. This would be favorable to you, especially when you decide to resell or rent out your property.

Fort Bonifacio is a classic example of a budding world-class metropolitan center. A good number of the buildings that line up its corridors are condominium projects like the Fifth Avenue Place, which form part of its master-planned community blueprint. The high rate of condominium sale in the area is a good indication that its property value has no way to go but up.



**2 Terms of Indebtedness.** For most buyers, it is not the price that matters when buying a condo but the terms of payment. For this reason, it has been used as a marketing tool well. There is nothing inherently wrong with this except that it can be misleading to the uninitiated.

Hidden or implied costs, if there are any, are usually presented to the client when he has already made an initial investment. These details are usually glossed over by the salesperson under the presumption that such costs are standard industry practice anyway. More progressive real estate developers, like Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC), however, employ a completely opposite approach to setting the terms of payment. With its thrust of giving its clients payment terms that are consistent with their financial situation, the company offers not just affordable options but stretched and interest-free monthly payments and lower reservation fee.



**3 The Bottleneck Mayhem.** A great location usually comes with traffic jams on the price tag. Unless it's an easy walking distance away from your workplace, better think of it as undesirable location. There are indeed better places to spend your life like inside a master-planned city where traffic is virtually unknown.

The Fifth Avenue Place is strategically located inside Fort Bonifacio City. It is highly accessible from several important city centers and ports of entries including the Makati and Ortigas business centers, the C-5 and South Luzon Express Way. This is especially ideal for individuals and families who are constantly on the move to visit friends and relatives elsewhere.

**4 The Neighbor from Hell.** The profile of potential owners may be a strange consideration but if you are a yuppie, a young couple, a small family or a recent retiree you would want to be sure it's a wholesome community you'll be mingling with. The last thing you need is unreasonable next-door neighbors who unwittingly impose their eccentric antics on you. Before buying, check out the developer's target market and make sure you fit the profile.

The sales and marketing services department of Robinsons Land noted that Fifth Avenue Place is highly ideal for singles, starter couples, small families and even empty nesters. Future tenants are also allowed to combine two units into one depending on their unique needs. A harmonious community of tenants is one of the few priceless privileges you can enjoy in the right condo and it takes just a little background check to find out.

**5 The Difficult Developer.** Don't let the great location and the blueprint for a condo unit distract you from the developer's reputation. A little background check on the developer would tell you how much risk you are assuming. A developer is known by the list of successful projects he keeps.

One good thing to ask the salesman is a list of the developer's previous projects. With an impressive track record that includes 18 malls, three hotels, several residential subdivision developments and six residential and office buildings, that include ready for occupancy condominiums like Robinsons Place Residences and the Galleria Regency, RLC is known for completing its projects on time and on specifications.

# First pouring of West Parc's Alder building completed

THE FIRST pouring of concrete on the foundation of the Alder building—the first building of the two-phase, seven-tower West Parc project—has been accomplished, according to Filinvest Alabang Inc.

The ceremony was witnessed by about 30 of West Parc's first batch of 100-plus buyers. Located within FAI's Westgate District in the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, West Parc targets first-time condominium unit buyers in the mid-range market within the southern Metro Manila-Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon areas.

## First phase of dev't

Named after popular tree species, the Alder, Birch and Cedar buildings will comprise the first phase of development. Each tower offers 119 residential units and a limited number of commercial units on the ground floor.

Buyers who were informally interviewed during the post-pouring reception say that what made them decide on West Parc were not only the location and the developer's reputation, but also the architecture of the units. "The setup of (West Parc) is not like a condominium or an apartment, but like a house," said one male buyer in his late 40s. "When I saw the model unit, I felt I was walking into a two-story house and not a condo."

## 2-story-house ambience

Rogelio G. Villarosa of R Villarosa Architects, managing partner of the project's architectural consulting firm, confirmed that, indeed, the bilevel design of West Parc intentionally creates a two-story-house ambience. "Key architectural design elements contribute to this effect," said Villarosa.

Said Villarosa: "As you enter the main door, the main stairway is instantly visible. That, combined with a high ceiling—a 'cathedral ceiling'—in the stairwell, creates a feeling of great space. To give an element of surprise, the main living area was designed to be much wider than the foyer. When one enters the foyer, one perceives a sudden widening of space." He explained, "You don't have the feeling of confinement brought about by walls on your right and left. The perspective one gets as he enters the unit is very unlike what one gets in a boxy apartment."

Bedrooms are in the upper level, so there is maximum privacy for unit owners when entertaining visitors. "The bilevel architecture also allows the use of bigger closed-closet space, since the closets occupy the upper part of the corridor," added Villarosa. (In bilevel condominiums, there are hallways only on every other floor.)

"Another plus for residents is a utility area constructed right beside the kitchen. The utility area's lower portion can serve as a laundry area, while the upper part can house the compressor of a split-type air-conditioner," he said.

## Affordable investment

West Parc is an affordable investment with studio units going for as low as P10,500 per month. The project is located a few meters away from the Alabang-Zapote Road and is in close proximity to existing developments such as the Festival Supermall, PriceSmart, Alabang Town Center and the Northgate Cyberzone.

Each building of the Phase 1 development will have seven bilevel floors with bilevel units for two and three-bedroom units, and two types of studios—all of which were designed with space flexibility in mind. The ground floor of each building will have spaces for commercial establishments such as coffee shops and restaurants, and/or for facilities such as a gym and day-care center.

Amenities like a lap pool, landscaped gardens, a children's pool and playground keep residents fit and their kids busy and happy. For entertaining, there's a function room and a cabana for outdoor barbecues.

# Ace Builders Center opens at SM Fairview From page B1

LION dance welcomes shoppers at the New ACE Builders Center in SM Fairview.

## Opening rites

A simple ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a lion dance auspiciously opened the center. Sharing honors were Delta Wood president Alvin Hung, Exclusive Wood president Johnny Chan; and Matwood president Arturo Dee, as well as Ace president Johnny Cobankiat.

There was more building fun during the day with a fashion show by Freego, a ceramic-making contest and a Black and Decker stool-making challenge participated in by PBA players Noli Locsin and Kenneth Durendes.

Shoppers at the new ACE Builders Center will not only be amazed by its wide selection of home improvement items, but also by its exciting promotions. Every P500 purchase until Dec. 31 entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win a brand-new Nissan Frontier.

The ACE Builders Center is located at the ground floor of the SM City Fairview Annex.

PARENTS of ACE'S Johnny Cobankiat, Juanita Co and Atilano Co Chin Hua with daughter in law, Aida Cobankiat at the ACE Builders Center opening

# Making a home for Christmas

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**By Pinky B. Cruz**

*"There was a great deal of confusion and laughter and noise ... of knives and forks, of corks and glass-stoppers."*

*—James Joyce*

**COMMENTARY**

I DON'T really know why but I turn nostalgic as soon as Christmas season ushers in. It must be the cool breeze that gently embraces the child in me. My favorite blankets seem unwilling to part with me at this time and it takes a lot of snooze and snuggles to finally bring me up. My mornings become as languid and assuring as these cloudy days. It must be the air of the auspicious Holidays. The reminiscences of Christmases past when all I ever anticipate is to wake up in the smell of hot chocolate and slowly roused from sleep by the blinking of my mom's old-fashioned Christmas tree.

Lately though, it takes gritted teeth to get into the Christmas spirit of my childhood. I need to silence all the noises in my wandering mind and quiet my emotions to the things I have loved about the whole festive period: the shopping and the decorating. I have come up with a wish list or things I promise myself to do before Christmas ends.

1. Gathering of favorite people at home, talking about a zillion things on life and how time so easily sneaked up on us. A tradition can become one old cycle. But, life is about getting happiness in the simple pleasure of family gatherings. Going back to my roots has been a rollercoaster ride of laughter and plain cozying up. Making my home ready for Christmas can become an event in itself, what with the help of yuletide color and one witty concept. A travel back in time can spring from a well-planned painstaking attention to details, in the midst of the pure excitement of the day.

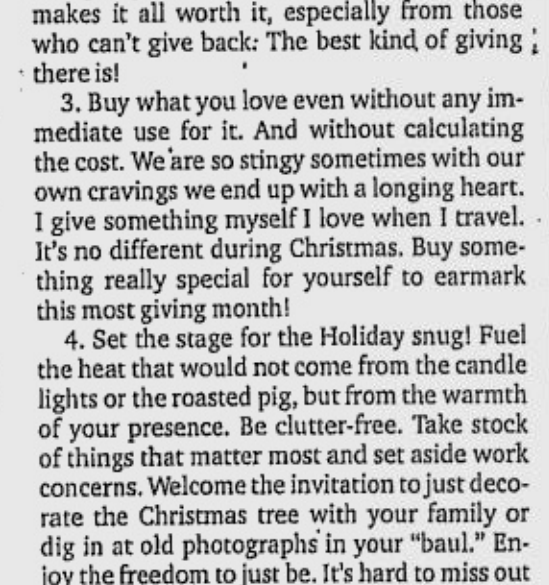
2. Giving can be fun—an occasion when one becomes creative in choosing the right thing to give, to whom and how much can the budget be stretched. Remember, we don't need to spend much to give memorable gifts. The prospect of making the recipient smile makes it all worth it, especially from those who can't give back: The best kind of giving there is!

3. Buy what you love even without any immediate use for it. And without calculating the cost. We are so stingy sometimes with our own cravings we end up with a longing heart. I give something myself I love when I travel. It's no different during Christmas. Buy something really special for yourself to earmark this most giving month!

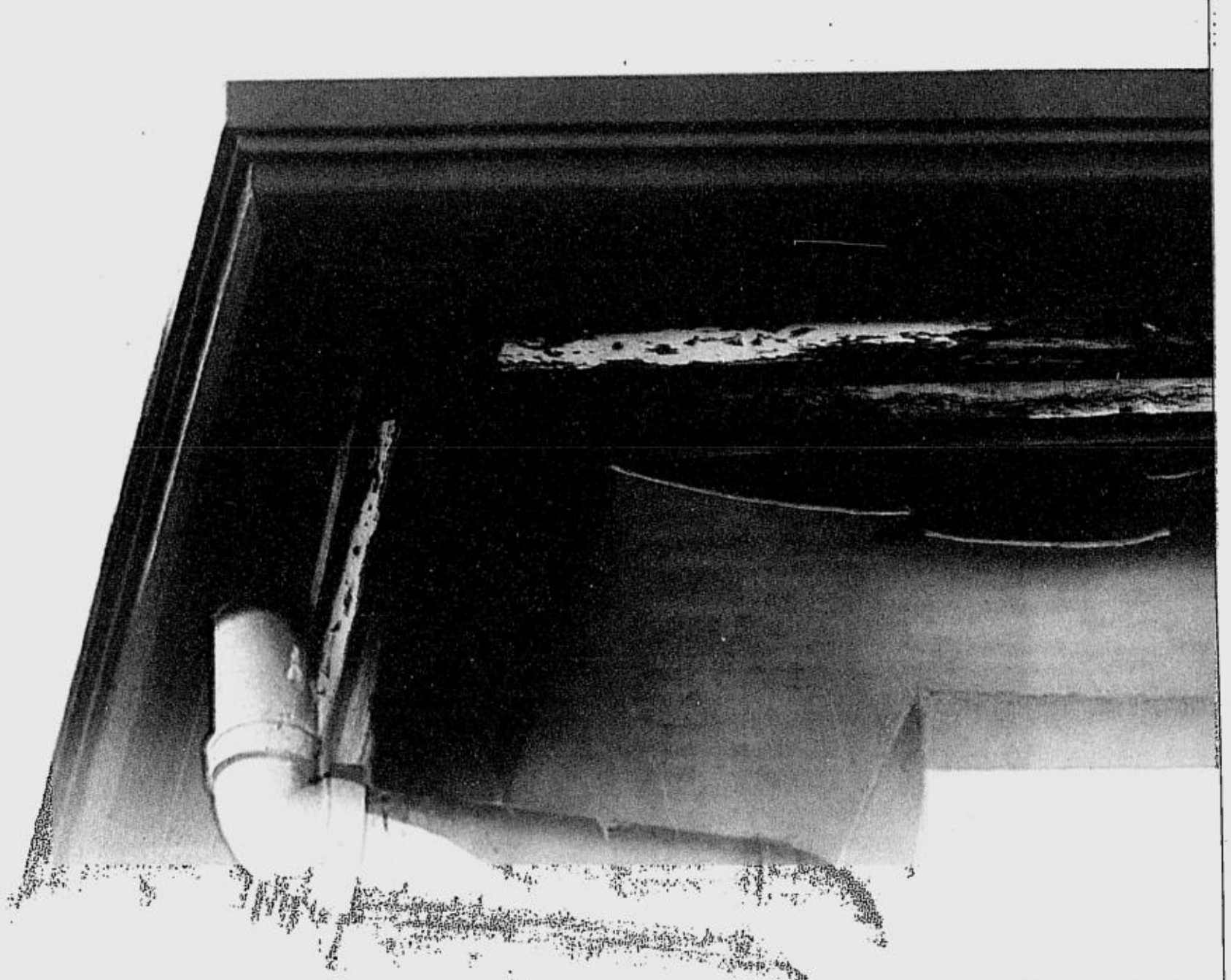
4. Set the stage for the Holiday snug! Fuel the heat that would not come from the candle lights or the roasted pig, but from the warmth of your presence. Be clutter-free. Take stock of things that matter most and set aside work concerns. Welcome the invitation to just decorate the Christmas tree with your family or dig in at old photographs in your "baul." Enjoy the freedom to just be. It's hard to miss out on the good rush joy only a Christmas can bring!

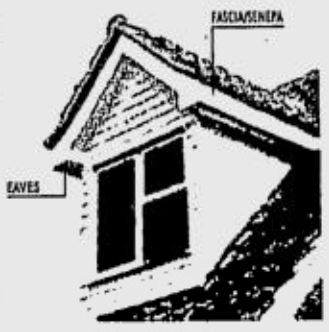
***

*E-mail the author at pinkycruz@creativepost.com.ph*



The price of not knowing what Senepa is.



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# Round the clock construction at Canyon Ranch project site

## Canyon Ranch offers a spectacular gateway and suburb to Makati

THE FREEMONT suite features a living room, dining room, two toilet and baths and three bedrooms.

A REFRESHING community is now fast taking shape in the more affluent area of Cavite City. Canyon Ranch a perfectly orchestrated master-planned residential development in San Lazaro Leisure Park is now gearing construction of its model homes.

The model center fittingly called "Canyon Ranch Street of Dreams" covers a total of 4,000 square meters and will feature a presentation/visitor's area and three Canyon Ranch house models—the Freemont, Delano and Atherton.

### 5 attractive residential houses

The Canyon Ranch community offers five attractive residential houses with varying floor layouts and lot sizes to choose from. All homes are Californian-inspired, but individually decorated giving its own distinctive charm and character.

• The Irvine priced at P2.96 million is perfectly suited for small families at 80 sq m. Its bright and airy rooms include a living and dining area, two toilets and baths and three bedrooms.

• The Delano collection priced at P3.68 million has similar features to Freemont but is slightly smaller with a floor area of 101 sq m.

• The Freemont suite at P3.93 million is a 105-sq-m house and lot. Its modern façade, double-height-ceiling living area and picturesque windows with view decks make Freemont a welcoming and friendly home for a medium-sized family. It features a living room , dining room, two toilet and baths and three bedrooms.

• The Berkeley collection at P8.1 million has a spacious floor area of 200 sq m and is excellently suited for big families. It features a living room, family den, dining area, three toilets and baths, powder room and four bedrooms.

• The Atherton series priced at P12.6 million is the largest house model in Canyon Ranch at 280 sq m. Located at the ridge area, the Atherton homes offer the most commanding vistas of Laguna de Bay and Mt. Makiling. The series features a living room and family niche and den with double-height ceilings, a dining area which opens to your very own lanai, five toilets and baths and four bedrooms.

### Spectacular gateway

A flagship development of Century Communities Corp. in partnership with Manila Jockey Club, Canyon Ranch is positioned to be the finest gated residential community in Cavite. It is located in an inviting part of Cavite characterized by rolling topography, endless vistas and an adventure-laden facility.

"Canyon Ranch offers a spectacular gateway and suburb to Makati while offering a breath of fresh air and health living," says Century Communities Corp.'s COO Marco Antonio.

Only four exits from Makati, homes at Canyon Ranch offer the breezy and relaxed environment of the South combined with the modern conveniences of a next super city. Also, fully integrated in the community is a commercial multiplex.

Also very close are shopping destinations like the SM Dasmariñas, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM South and and Robinsons Mall. Nearby schools are the De La Salle Canlubang, Woodrose and Brent International Schools.

For sports and leisure, world-class golf courses within the areas are the Manila Southwoods, Sta. Elena and the Canlubang Golf and Country Clubs. Likewise in close proximity are industrial parks.

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Despite the peace, Rockwell rocks. Surprising structures change the skyline every now and then. But even with these, there is no sense of overcrowding. Towers loom but space is preserved. The marvel of urban planning makes the place teem with life and abundant space.

Rockwell is diverse. There are bargain haunts as well as designer labels, traditional and quirky buys, mainstream and transitional events and a global choice of restaurants.

Walk the streets of Rockwell and feel a dose of Beverly Hills. The neighborhood wears the charm, the soul and the attitude of a place that doesn't need to prove anything anymore.

Exclusive as it is, Rockwell is not the bastion of "The Stepford Wives". It is not rigid, imposing nor intimidating. Smiles are casual, real and warm.

Quite a dream place that you can have. The price is within your league. But the feeling is close to fantastic.

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# Reinventing the Filipino home: Smaller but better

By Marcos de Guzman Jr.

WHEN ONE thinks of a Filipino home, standard images are of a "kubo" with nipa roofing and "sawali" walls. However, isn't it more appropriate to think of a home designed for the Filipino... his needs, his habits, his way of life and even his budget?

**SKETCH OF THE NEW DINING ROOM**
**HERE is a concept of a dining room that has been reinvented to serve as a living area as well. It may soon be a common trend in houses with limited space.**

## White elephants

Today, you find many houses with rooms that are not fully utilized and only collect dust. There are houses with formal living and dining rooms, with furnishings that are usually covered with cloth or plastic (giving the semblance of ghosts) and are used only on special occasions a few times a year. The homeowners are content to dine, albeit uncomfortably, in a less grandiose nook or in a portion of the kitchen. In turn, the so-called kitchen is not really being used as a place to cook, but only for displaying almost brand-new kitchenware.

COMMENTARY

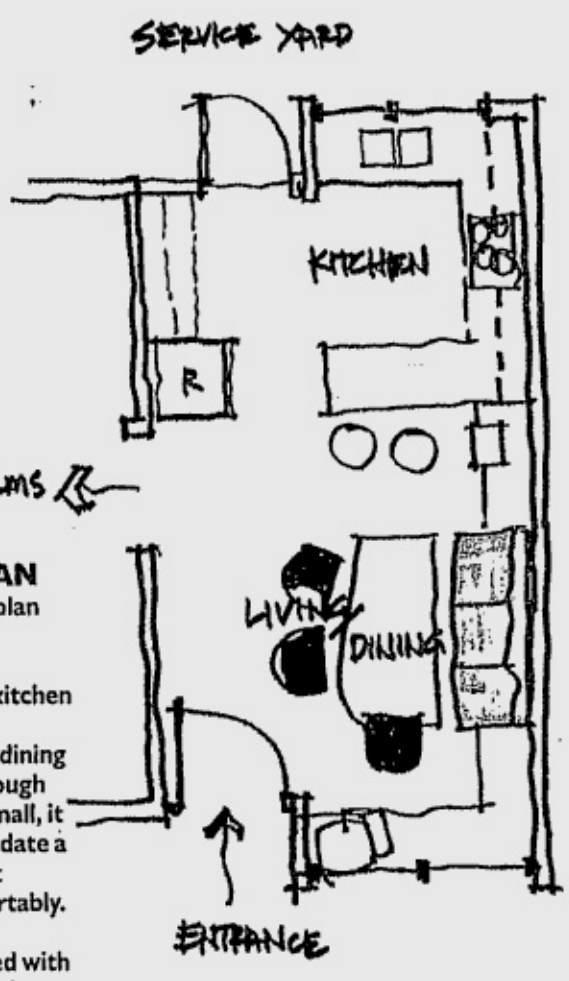
The most utilized area of such a house is the "dirty kitchen," where the hub of activity lies. Ironically, these high-traffic areas are usually placed in the least important and most uncomfortable parts of the house. This is true for the huge mansions in high-class subdivisions, as well as many simple residences. So much space is wasted. To make matters worse, the extra rooms pose an additional burden to clean and maintain, much like white elephants that are considered holy but are generally worthless.

Why then do we have houses like these? Is it because we like to copy the western lifestyle of the rich and famous we often see on TV? Are we so enamored with foreign interior design magazines perhaps? It seems that the western style does not really suit most of us, much less the frequent formal party-giver lifestyle. Surely, we can make our home design look up-scale and modern, but more in tune with our way of life. Fuzzy sofas and area rugs and thick heavy curtains may look impressive but are not very practical in our clime.

## Learning from Japanese, our local homes

Our Asian neighbors have their own distinct styles. For example, a typical, traditional Japanese house is simple and compact, with multifunctional spaces, proper proportions and using materials suited to their climate. Rooms are not overly large. They can sleep, eat and entertain in the same set of rooms.

Our indigenous homes, as seen from the Ivatans, to the Ifugaos, to the Tausugs, follow the same concepts of practicality and efficiency, designed to withstand inclement weather and specific local conditions. Each group has kept its distinct style intact, free from impractical influence. Although our needs remain basically the same, our standard of living has developed beyond the practical and it would be wise to rethink them, go back to the basics, strive for better balance between what is functional and what is merely decorative. Surely we can pick up good ideas from other cultures, but these must be adjusted to suit our needs.




**HOUSE PLAN**
**THE HOUSE plan shows the relationship between the kitchen and the "reinvented" dining area. Even though the space is small, it can accommodate a group of eight seated comfortably. It may be complemented with a semienclosed terrace.**

## Small but efficient

Steadily over the years, designs have evolved and become more practical. Because of the rising cost of construction materials, labor and energy, Filipinos are becoming wiser and more practical. Homemakers are learning that simplicity can be just as elegant and small spaces can be made to look appealing. Careful planning will result to better, more functional designs.

Developers and architects are challenged to create more affordable homes. Buyers' needs are carefully analyzed and addressed. Rooms are becoming more functional. Every square meter of the house must be useful. Zero space wastage is the objective. Energy efficiency is a major consideration and flexibility and expansion are both anticipated. The challenge continues and designs can only be more innovative.

## The rationale of the living room

If you attempt to prioritize the spaces in a house, you might be surprised by the conclusion you come up with. Which rooms could be classified as necessary and which ones are just nice to have? I'm sure most will agree that bedrooms, kitchens and toilets are essential parts we cannot do without. Between a dining room and a living room, however, most would agree that the dining room is the more important. Then, why did the old trend of design dictate that the living room should be the biggest and grandest room in the house? Is a sofa with matching pair of heavy armchairs and low center table the standard requirements for a living room suite? Do we really serve earl grey tea and scones in fine china whenever we entertain? Then, why all the fuss about living rooms?

If we really need to cut down to basics, I believe the living room would be the first to go. The dining room can be reinvented as the main area for entertainment by making it cozier and more comfortable. After all, it is already the best place to sit, dine and talk with the family.

So, if one of these days, you visit a modern home and find the living room missing, do not be surprised. This could be the trend in future homes, one that harks back to the practicality of indigenous houses.

*(Architect Marcos R. de Guzman Jr. is the managing partner of Marcos de Guzman Architecture Network. He may be reached through his email address: arkinet@email.com.ph.)*

# *Boral to put up manufacturing center in RP*

AFTER LESS than six short years of meeting the demanding requirements of prestigious local commercial projects, Boral, Australia's leading construction material company, has expanded its Philippine market to serve residential and renovation applications through its high-quality plasterboard (gypsum board) and wall and ceiling systems.

With its imported plasterboard products rapidly gaining acceptance in the country, the company aims to ultimately establish its own manufacturing center in the Philippines to better service greater market demands for its full range of plasterboards.

Boral currently maintains 13 plants across Asia and supplies over 30 countries worldwide.

Boral Plasterboard, the premier name in Asia for plasterboards, is currently used in commercial, industrial and residential interior applications, and is preferred over traditional building materials due to its excellent thermal and acoustic performance, classy seamless finish, high fire-rating, superior flexibility and affordability.

Prominent local projects which specified and used Boral for interior applications include Greenbelt 4, Rockwell Condominiums, the Powerplant Mall; RCBC Plaza, the British School of Manila, ABS-CBN, and SM Malls.

Boral plasterboards are available in leading construction supply depots and hardware stores in major cities nationwide.

**ST. THOMAS SQUARE TAPS FPD SAVILLS**
**St. Thomas Square, a new commercial development in university belt, recently signed a retail management agreement with FPD Savills, a pioneer and leader in the property management industry. The 4,000-square-meter, 4-story mini mall was designed by noted architect, Jonathan O. Gan, who gave it a distinct high glass wall look.**

# Malayan Plaza design challenge features Japanese interiors

RAMP model Joseph Pagulayan is every inch a Filipino. But having a judoka father and having started training himself in the martial arts at age five, Joseph has had a lingering romance with all things Japanese—from food to martial arts. Now a kick boxing and kendo practitioner, Joseph says "I get a natural high being surrounded by Japanese elements."

That is why when Malayan Plaza asked Marjon Enterprises to join its ongoing Interior Design Challenge, designer Chato Patricio created a space responsive to Joseph's sensibilities out of a studio unit about 40 square meters wide at the 36-story new prestige address at the Ortigas Center.

Highlighting the unit's functional and esthetic values is a custom-built wooden platform at the center of the room on which the sofa bed rests. A closer look reveals the platform is actually an underfloor storage that can accommodate books, magazines, clothes and other personal stuff. It's really designed to get rid of clutter.

"When I come home, I just want to relax. One way to do that is to stay away from the clutter. It's important to homey persons like me since it provides a positive psychological effect," Joseph says.

(L-R) CHATO Patricio, Marina Jugo and Joseph Pagulayan

## Simplicity

To complete the Japanese touch and to underscore the design's simplicity, Patricio chose white as the predominant interior color with deliberate red accents at nodal points of the unit. Large mirrors strategically set at the entrance create a spacious feeling. Patricio also installed white drapes around the sofa bed for the owner to draw down whenever he chooses to be more private and introspective.

From the specially designed storage bins to the Japanese cabinet, the low beds and tables, to the use of shoji panels as ceiling treatment, the studio is a picture of trademark Japanese simplicity and functionality that caters very well to the owner's esthetic needs.

## Design challenge

Marjon Enterprises' Marina Jugo points out that her outfit, which specializes in finishing, customized many of the elements to fit everything within the given space. As partner of Malayan Plaza in the Interior Design Challenge, Marjon Enterprises provided all the soft design elements like the furniture, lamps and lights, Japanese art items and other home accessories. The design challenge is also supported by My Home magazine and ABC 5's "Tahanang Pinoy."

"The elements in Chato's design actually blend with my personality. I like a simple place to live in—minimalist, symmetrically aligned and functional. That's home to me," Joseph stresses.

Coming from a family of architects, Joseph worked with the designer in conceiving and creating an environment conducive to meditation. For someone like Joseph who strives for what he calls the "perfection of one's routine"—a hallmark of Japanese discipline—such ambience is a must-have.

An advocate of physical and mental health, Joseph is co-owner of Red Corner, an alternative fitness gym that goes by the simple tenet—getting fit without getting hit. Red Corner offers boxing as a core workout and has pioneered in punch bag aerobics.

## Perfect

The Malayan Plaza is perfect for Joseph's lifestyle, being centrally located in relation to five Red Corner locations in Metro Manila. Located at the heart of the Ortigas business district, the residential condo will have jogging paths, a putting green and a fitness gym—another must-have for a health buff like Joseph.

And the best part is its affordability, he adds. Given all its facilities and amenities—not to mention its ideal location—the Malayan Plaza is what every upwardly mobile entrepreneur and young achiever like Joseph Pagulayan would desire in a home.

# Camp John Hay Manor lines up its cool holiday fare

HAVE you been dreaming of celebrating a storybook Christmas somewhere with chilly weather, dressed in the warmest sweaters and sitting by a crackling fireplace but has been put off by the prohibitive cost of foreign travel?

You can still pack up the woolies and the favorite jacket and breathe in the cool mountain air without having to rob the bank. Accessible by car through the expanded North Expressway and the all-weather Marcos Highway or by a brief and pleasant 50-minute plane ride, Camp John Hay Manor in Baguio City promises cool weather and keeps the fireplace burning year round. With temperatures dipping to an average 12 degrees centigrade at night this time of year, they've come up with cool weather holiday specials that will warm the heart of young and old alike.

The Piano Bar at the Manor invites you to sit by the fireplace, swoon to resident pianist, David Tabligan's romantic music and slowly savor the season's popular Cheese Fondue with a glass of crisp, white wine or the Prawn and Vegetable Tempura Basket with hot or cold sake.

## Strawberry season

It's strawberry season in Baguio once again and time to indulge in the strawberry concoctions at Le Chef Restaurant at the Manor. Swoon to their scrumptious Strawberry Soufflé, Strawberry with Chocolate Fondue, Strawberry Cheesecake, Strawberries Dipped in Chocolate that are perfect with a chilled glass of champagne or simply relish a bowl of freshly picked sweet, plump strawberries sprinkled with confectioner's sugar.

With the launch of their new menu, Chef Billy King introduces exciting new dishes, retained the old classic specialties and added Filipino favorites. He will surprise guests of Le Chef Restaurant at the Manor with these new flavors during the Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner, the Noche Buena Mini Buffet from 10:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., the Christmas Day Lunch and Dinner Buffet, the special New Year's Eve Dinner Buffet and New Year's Day Brunch. On Dec. 31, guests can welcome the New Year with a New Year's Eve fireworks display and countdown while toasting with their favorite bubbly.

## Holiday goodies

The shelves and counters of the popular Le Chef Deli at the Manor are brimming with all the traditional holiday goodies like the Classic Christmas Pudding, Mince Pies, Christmas Praline, Christmas Log and Gingerbread Houses. Of course, you can still get the best-selling cheese and ham bread, ube bread, special *ensaymada*, chocolate chip cookies that are must-have Baguio *pasalubong* items.

For the traditional Filipino touch, a *bibingka* and *puto bumbong* stand at the Manor garden will be serving these steaming hot native treats every afternoon during the holiday season. It's the perfect *merienda* during those cool, lazy afternoons in Baguio.

ATLANTA CLASSIQUE PVC FENCE
Patent Application No.: 2-2001-00403

HOUSE PICKET
APPLICATION: It is ideal in protecting and enhancing the beauty of lawns in residential and commercial establishments.
DIMENSIONS
A. Rail: 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 6'
B. Post: 4" x 4" x 7'
C. Picket: 1" x 1 1/2" x 4'
D. Pyramid Post Cap: 4" x 4"

GOLF COURSE FENCING
APPLICATION: The Atlanta perimeter fence is best suited for residential & commercial edifices
DIMENSIONS
A. Rail: 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 6'
B. Post: 4" x 4" x 7'
C. Picket: 1" x 1 1/2" x 4'
D. Pyramid Post Cap: 4" x 4"

RANCH RAIL
APPLICATION: It is also designed as perimeter fencing for ranches in raising livestock such as cattle, horses, sheep and other farm animals.
DIMENSIONS
A. Rail: 5 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 8'
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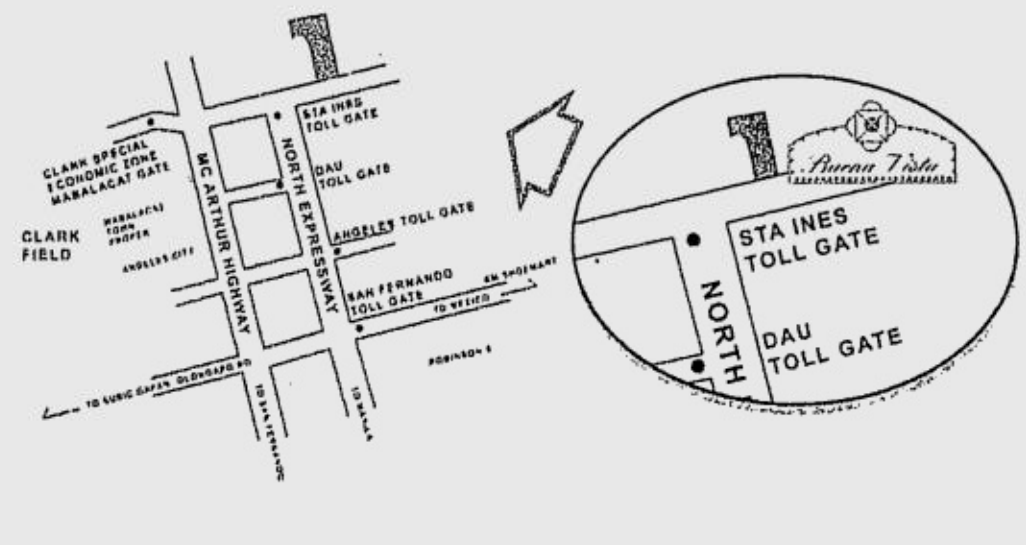


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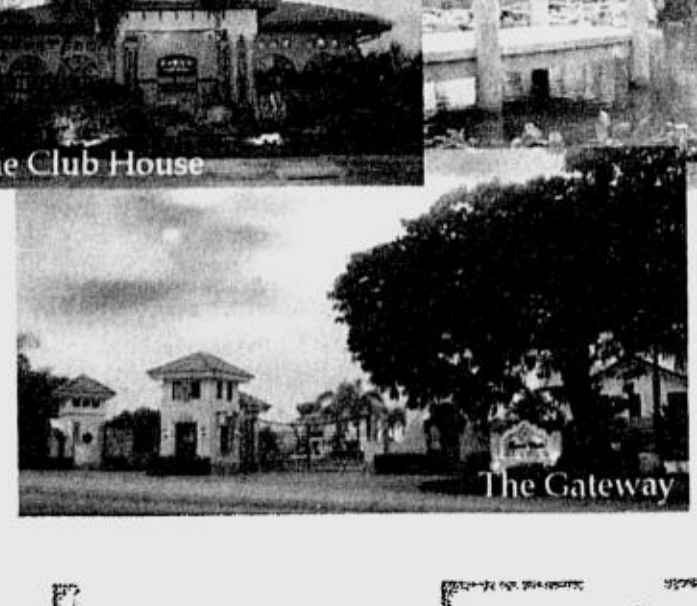
The Gateway

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# 2004 Banner Year Performance Spurs Federal Land's Optimism for 2005 and Beyond

The early turn-over of units to owners of Orchid Tower of the prestigious Oriental Gardens Makati and the brisk progress of the Lotus Tower's construction ahead of schedule, reaffirms the confidence of Federal Land, Inc on the property development and real estate industry of the country.

Already, Oriental Garden's Lotus Tower super structure has been completed and is now focused on internal works within the residential units. December will see the completion of the Lotus Tower Lobby and the grand opening of its new model units.

The recent industry report of over 30% growth in the industry also reflects in the almost always rafter-packed open-houses and advance reservations in other on-going developments and properties of Federal Land, whether, commercial buildings, and their high-rise condominiums.

Not even six months since Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando cut the ceremonial ribbons during the ground-breaking ceremonies of the most modern property development in this suburban city, Marquinton Marikina, a self-contained community, is now launching its second residential cluster this month as well. Only a very few, choice commercial outlets remain available at their Blue Wave @ Marquinton mall, which will be soft opening along Sumulong Highway & Fernando Avenue, this December. The first outlets will be the Petron Service Station along with the new Jollibee outlet.

With over 90% of units at the Bay Gardens' Anchor Bay Tower sold out, the newest phase of this bay area luxury condominium will soon launch its newest structure called Mactan Bay. To serve as another beacon light on the shores of the Manila Bay, Bay Gardens is located at Metropolitan Park, at the corner of Roxas Boulevard & EDSA (near Toyota Manila Bay).

The Mactan Bay tower will feature new amenities to complement the luxuries of the three other towers. The five-star amenities will include a swimming pool and wading pool, outdoor children's playground and sandbox, lush tropical gardens with poolside cabanas, a game room, among others. Mactan Bay will make available a choice of 1BR, Executive 1BR, 2 and 3BR units, all with lanais, to suit individual discerning lifestyles.

In spite of the mixed views of economists in early 2004, Federal Land Inc. has continued with its development and marketing plans and activities without pause. The deep experience of over 30 years in the real estate and property development industry, provides the company's financial strength and backbone to put its projects steadily on stream.

The aggressive marketing initiatives and follow-throughs of their sales and marketing professionals enables Federal Land to maintain its lead in the highly and fiercely competitive property and realty sales. After a series of successful marketing blitzes, the top producing sales professionals of Federal Land were awarded a brief R & R in Hong Kong, the start of the last quarter of 2004.

What is considered as a gem of a property in Quezon City is Valencia Hills, a Spanish-villa inspired high-rise condominium, complemented with modern household amenities. Privacy, a primordial requirement of its very discriminating homeowners, is guaranteed by its equally select buyers of units.

"Another strength of our company", according to Ramon H. Aldaba, Federal Land's first vice president for Sales & Marketing, is the avant-garde perspective in satisfying their customers' needs and desires. For example, the GT International Tower along Ayala Avenue in Makati City reflects the ultra modern look and achiever profiles of top multinational companies that have made GT International Tower its chosen business address.

"In the case of the residential units," Aldaba averred, "gracious living, refinements in our amenities and appointments, good taste and community warmth - are the guiding lines and standards in our building designs. Nothing is spared in the areas of convenience and functionality".

With Federal Land residential units, one gets not only a place to live in, but more importantly, a place for families to bloom & grow in a conducive environment.

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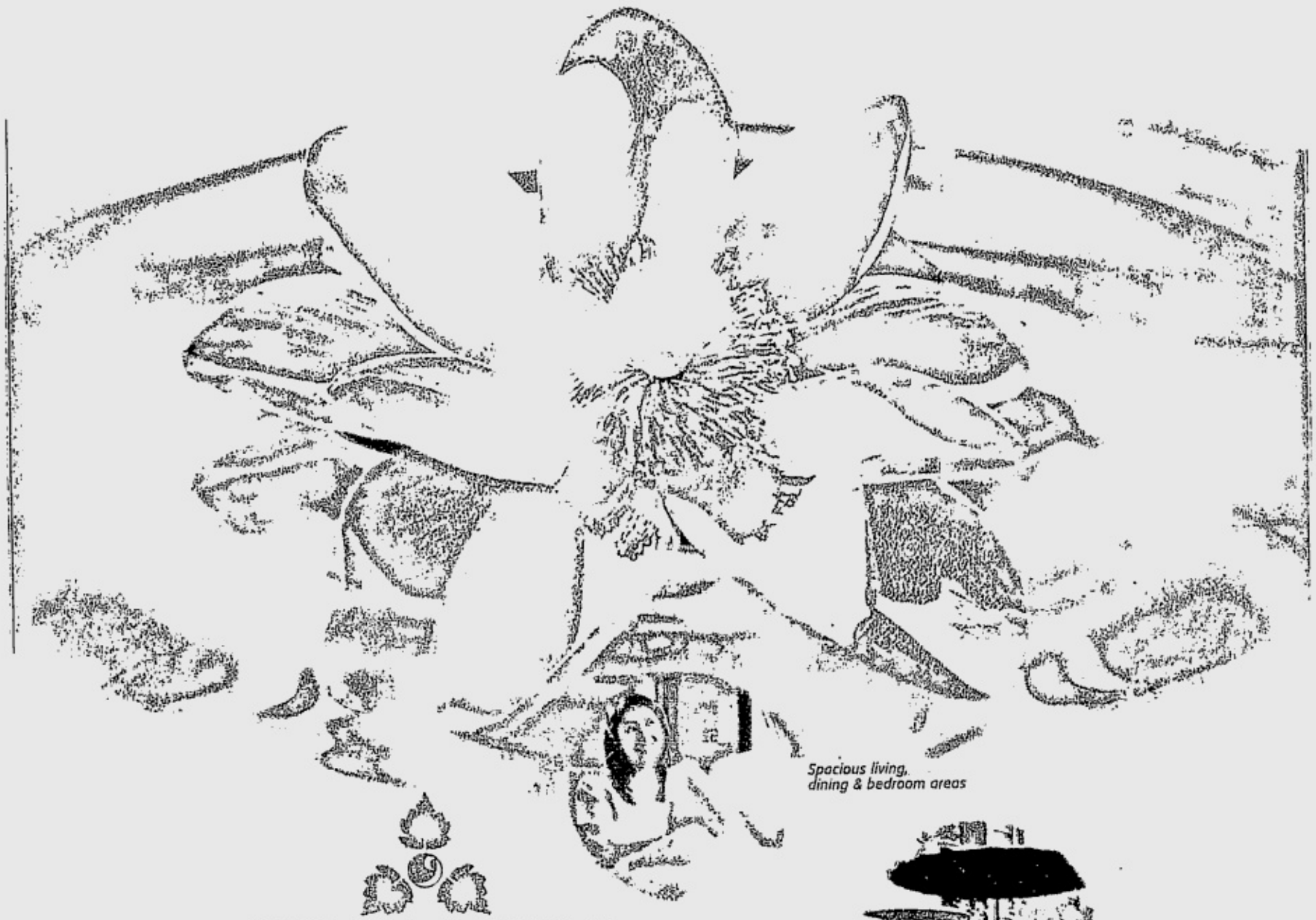

Spacious living, dining & bedroom areas

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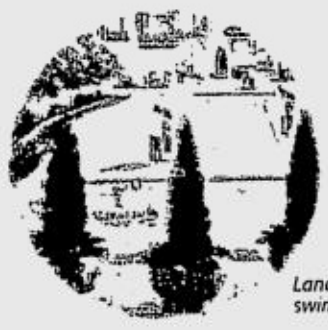

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# La Prarie: Building dreams, homes

MOST people dream of having their own homes. Many spend a lifetime saving up for this dream. Others still are lucky enough to own a second home, a weekend getaway, or a vacation home.

Chona Esguerra has spent a greater part of her life working very closely with individuals and families who all dreamed of having their own home.

## Former active agent

As a real estate broker specializing in the South, particularly the Ayala Alabang area, she has been an active agent in helping bring together buyers and sellers of real estate. She has been privy to the dreams, aspirations, considerations, standards, demands and limitations of home buyers.

After spending over 15 years working as a licensed real estate broker and helping people fulfill their dreams, Chona decided to strike out to fulfill a dream of her own: to develop a high-quality, wholesome community at an affordable price in the Tagaytay area. Enter La Prairie, which Chona describes as, "a better world at a better price."

## Exceptional family environment .

She remarks that La Prairie was created to delight the senses, embrace your lifestyle, and most importantly, meet your budget. And because she knows how stressful it can be to build a house, her company took the liberty of providing home buyers with a family of architects, structural engineers and landscapers who are all aligned in creating an exceptional family environment.

So when you move into a La Prairie Home, Chona says, "you know it has architectural integrity and quality construction."

La Prairie is developed in partnership with Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. whose past projects include such developments as The Orchard, Acropolis and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. La Prairie is a master-planned community that features country-style, simulated log homes with the most modern of amenities such as a community clubhouse, swimming pool, covered basketball court, open tennis courts, covered badminton courts, picnic grounds and a children's playground.

The development also boasts of a grand entrance gate, 24-hour security service, perimeter wall, underground drainage system and centralized water system. The homes vary in lot area from 181 to 347 square meters with an average size between 200 and 250 sq m. The price is surprisingly affordable, ranging P3 to P6 million. The model home is expected to be completed in February of 2005.

## Investing wisely in real estate

For Chona, investing wisely in real estate requires foresight or the ability to look ahead to predict the success potential of a property. La Prarie, she claims, meets the most important criteria that home buyers should take into consideration: location, the developer's reputation and value for money.

In terms of location, the Tagaytay area has experienced a real-estate boom in recent years Chona attributes this to such factors as accessibility to Metro Manila, the cool weather, attractive scenery, the development of more modern facilities such as water, PLDT and cable television and modern restaurants, country clubs and leisure centers. All these make Tagaytay a very viable and attractive weekend getaway or home for retirees. La Prairie is on Km. 67, Tagaytay Nasugbu Highway, right after the radar.

La Prairie offers excellent value for money The simulated log homes are reminiscent of the more expensive log cabins in a nearby, high-end residential development, but at less than a quarter of the price. Thus, Chona believes that her development caters to a broad market of potential home owners to include retirees, *balikbayans*, OFWs or people who simply want a vacation home or weekend getaway.

La Prairie, Chona says, is the logical culmination of her over 15 years worth of experience in the real estate business. After spending years of helping families fulfill their dreams, her own included.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# Super!

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*Editor* **Pam Pastor**
*Creative Director* **Tim Yap**

style • urban living • pop culture • entertainment • recreation

**Super!Countdown**

**7 days 'til X-mas!**

# holly days

**Welcome the new MTV VJs**— page C3
John Joe, Maike, Cesca, Mariel and Reema!

**Santa's Celebrity Strippers**— page E1
Phoem Barranda, Bianca Valerio, Alfred Vargas and more

**Jolina, Sandara and Echo** page G1 **in dream movie roles**

**Why ETC does NOT need new VJs** page I2

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**SUPER SURPRISE OF THE SEASON:** opening a box full of creativity and new blood

# Cult of personalities

**At last Saturday's screening for new members of the Super! team, our forward-thinking readers blew us away with their creativity, sincerity and unmistakably well-rehearsed tributes to Destiny's Child**

**Text by Gino de la Paz**
**Original artwork by Jason Moss**

EXACTLY two weeks before Christmas, young people of supreme confidence filled the lobby of the Philippine Daily Inquirer building to show portfolios of their work and offer glimpses of their talent. The reason behind this mini deluge? They were merely responding to an ad that announced informal auditions for would-be Super! writers, photographers, stylists and artists.

Driven by diverse passions, the group—ranging in age from 16 to 36—soon made a beeline to the 2nd floor board room. Since I was part of the screening committee, I really didn't know what to expect. It was a first for me. Will this be anything like "American Idol"? Like, in the off-chance that would have me in psychotherapy until the end of time, what if my favorite William Hung (insert sarcasm here) was among the day's hopefuls? I then closed my eyes and shuddered the horror away. But I bet the to-be-Supers had their apprehensions as well. Will they be asked to jump through burning hoops, bob for pig's feet in a vat of worms or worst of all, sit through an entire episode of the Sex Bomb Dancers' "Daisy Siete"? Ah, that's what made the whole thing fun.

## Open mic session

Noticing the part that said come in costume, some rolled in dressed as a Christmas tree, extras from "That '70s Show," and a belly-dancing Egyptian surfer. Others, meanwhile, didn't, but backed up their *pambahay* ensembles with brief footnotes on why they chose to come as themselves. We felt that most were intimidated by this little catch in our ad so massive pats on the back go out to those who bucked up.

If you thought that was hard-core remarkable, the actual panel interviews were even more interesting, to put it really, really mildly. From Fine Arts majors to published writers, aspiring stylists to ex-SM sales people, each one gave the five referees both brain and soul candy. After all, we witnessed monologues involving "Bring It On"-inspired cheers and Shu Uemura makeup. Likewise, the five of us also leafed through hand-made journals which contained personal works of art, photos of dissected hamsters and even poems written in blood. Fresh ideas, indeed. This was the kind of the audacity that would make a crew of frat boys blush and it was just the kind we had hoped to find.

## New blood

Marked characteristics made a few masterminds stand out, though. We wolf-whistled in our heads as we met a couple of high school seniors who, combining intellect and no-nonsense balls, chose to set up their own literary newsletter. It came as no surprise, we found out, that they were also extremely well-versed in the subject of films, theater and Pinoy entertainment references. Another ball of energy was a dude from San Beda, who flaunted his genius for raw, side-splitting comedy with his piece "A-bum-ination: The Art and Science of Making Tambay (Hanging Out)." Likewise, we stumbled upon someone with a deep love and knowledge of indie music. His music-referenced rhetoric and love for the Cocteau Twins and The Sundays made me sit up and notice.

Fortunately, as the session went swimmingly, Super! did not have to email parents assuring them that we weren't recruiting terrorists or members of a sex cult late into the night. In fact, the quintessential balls of energy we discovered gave our previously demanding holiday work schedule a much-needed inspiration—not to mention laughter-break. To all the aspirants, here's hoping that you continue to translate those abstract notions into full pop culture masterpieces. (You'll eventually earn your place in the spotlight.) Tons of people still want to try out so watch this space as we will be scheduling another go-see in the coming months. In the meantime, we would like to welcome a select number of newbies to the Super! family this week. Merry Christmas, Super! readers!

# VJ mo 'ko!

By Tim Yap

IT MEANS VJ of the people. The video jock rules the boob tube, becoming master of music ceremonies and playing Pied Piper to the A.D.D. generation.

Sarah Meier is the best example of an "It girl" VJ, whose sparkle and spunk transcends all hype. Sarah is a bundle of natural talent—but she doesn't stop at that. While most of her other contemporaries just "wing it," she studies her scripts and memorizes her lines before taping or appearing onstage. Not only is she street-smart and spontaneous, she has a style that's all her own.

Then there's KC Montero, who immediately strikes you as goofy. Game for anything, gregarious and gangsta-friendly, KC is your ultimate big brotha' with an attitude—and a good one at that.

Explosive onstage and chillaxed onscreen, Marc Abaya pulsates with every bit of soul in his body. Cindy Kurleto launched a thousand wet dreams when she first appeared on MTV. She continues to sizzle with every appearance.

If you think the list stops at that, then you're wrong. MTV just added five new VJs to its growing roster. They are: TV host and Ultimate Frisbee advocate Reema Chanco, commercial models Maike Evers and John Joe Joseph, student and theater actress Cesca Litton, and TV actress and host Mariel Rodriguez. I am excited to see how these new VJs will fare.

Last Thursday at Prince of Jaipur at The Fort, the "more senior" VJs introduced the newest VJs soon to cause a commotion. Other VJ graduates, like our favorites Jamie Wilson and Shannen Torres, were also present.

But it doesn't stop at that. MTV is still looking for four new VJs to spice up your music video viewing days and nights—the MTV VJ Hunt will be upon us once again, come January 2005.

This season, why not add to your music vocabulary, speed up your spiel skills and happily ham it up in front of your friends, your camera, or even your dog?

So step up and snap up this opportunity—who knows, the next mic you hold could have the multimillion-dollar MTV logo on it.

## MARC ABAYA

**People might be surprised to know that** I used to buy Michael Bolton tapes.
**The most important thing I've ever learned is** that I am an ant amid a million beautiful giants.
**The worst thing that ever happened to me was** that my pants fell off during a performance.
**And what this taught me was** to always button my pants.
**The thing that makes me most angry is** apathy.
**When I'm gone, they'll probably say** "Marc Abaya was a dork!"
**When I retire, I would like to** have an MTV crib and never have to worry about money EVER.
**The world would be a much better place if** people simply listened to each other more.
**The thing that makes my life worth living is** love.
**My greatest hope for the future is** seven daughters and NO sons.
**The worst thing somebody said about me was** "Marco... I am not angry at all but I am disappointed in you." OUCH!
**I'm saving up for** an MTV crib.
**My current state of mind is** nonlinear.
**If someone were to play me in my biopic, it would be** Adam Sandler.
**My five favorite words are** food, sleep, humility, courage and love.
**I aspire to be** like Bono.

## KC MONTERO

**The thing about fame is** that people expect me to give them expensive Christmas presents.
**The thing I love most about what I do is** getting to hang out with really nice, cool people.
**People might be surprised to know that** I have the hardest time finding shoes that fit me in the Philippines.
**The most important thing I've ever learned is** that money doesn't grow on trees.
**I wish when I started off, I'd been told** to take Tagalog lessons.
**The worst thing that ever happened to me was** that I broke my hand when I punched a cement wall.
**And what this taught me was** not to drink too much hard alcohol.
**My best-ever outfit consisted of** Geneva's thong and a tie.
**The soundtrack to my life would include "Let's get retarded" by The Black Eyed Peas**
**If I were invisible for a day,** I would invade everyone's privacy!
**The thing that makes me most angry is** people eating my food when there's only enough for me to eat.
**If I were the most powerful person on earth,** I would rename the planet after my first dog, Corky.
**When I'm gone, they'll probably say "KC who?" or something like "I thought KC was gone a long time ago..."**
**When I retire, I would like to** sit on the beach, drink beer, and get fat (in training now)
**The world would be a much better place if** there were no more KCs in this world.
**My hero** is my father.
**My greatest hope for the future is** that one day little boys and girls from all walks of life can swing together on the swing set of life.
**The worst thing somebody said about me was** that I'll never make it at MTV.
**My most embarrassing moment was when**—It's embarrassing! Why would I tell you?
**I'm saving up for** a pig farm.
**My biggest indulgence is** electronic gadgets.
**My current state of mind is** Zzzzz...
**If someone were to play me in my biopic, it would be** John Cusack.
**My five favorite words are** huh, yes, beer?, bob and food

VJ MO/ C4

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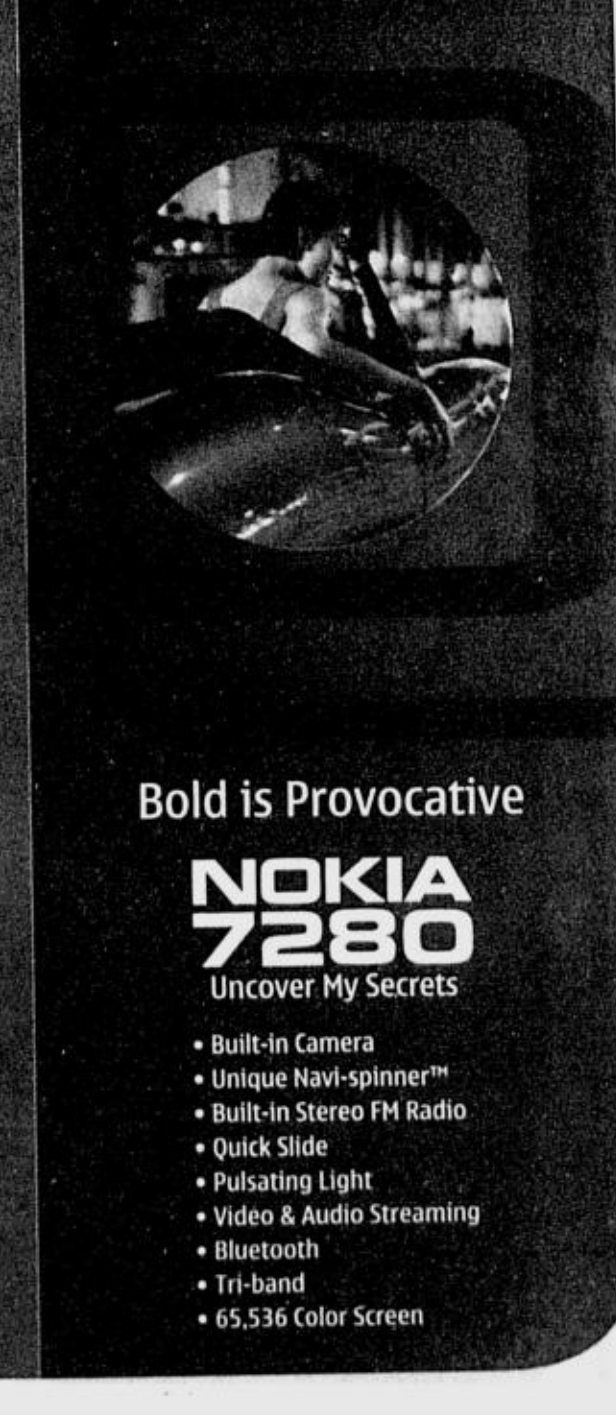

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CAPTION

# WJ mo 'ko!

From page C3

## Stay Light this holiday season.

Christmas is definitely in the air! Everywhere you look, the holiday season is already in full swing and it's here to stay. It's the time of the year once again where numerous parties are celebrated left and right. To make sure that you get the most out of all these celebrations, here are some creative tips guaranteed to let you have fun and at the same time stay light this X'mas:

**Tip #1: Keep Moving.**

Beat the X'mas rush! Now you can be present in all the parties and still have the extra energy to accomplish everything! How? By being active! Be creative! Stick to 10-20 minute cardio exercises that are easy to do such as walking, running or dancing. Exercise wherever you can from taking the stairs in your office to parking far away just to get more exercise. You can also make it a family affair. During this month, plan active things to do with your family like looking at X'mas decorations around the subdivision.

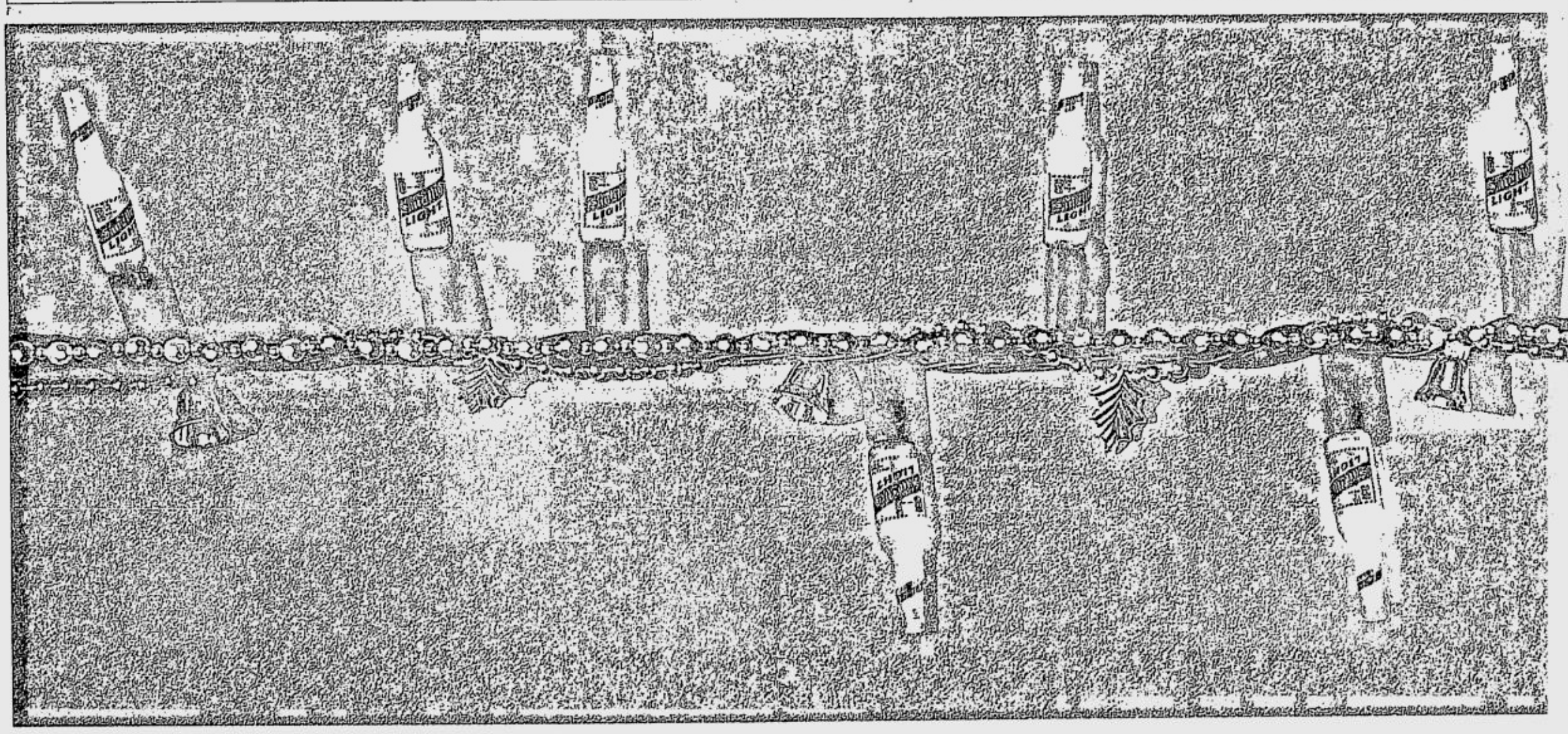
**Tip #2: Control Your Eating.**

Chrisimas would not be Christmas without tasting all the fabulous and delicious treats. To keep your weight in check, be sure never to go to a party on an empty stomach. Remember to eat before you go to avoid the temptation of overindulging during parties. It would also help if you choose only one treat to indulge in. Pick a treat that you can only get during the holiday season. And most importantly, don't skip meals. Remember, if you're hungry, your mind will be unable to make healthy food choices. To avoid this, you can try eating small meals all day to avoid going crazy at the buffet table.

**Tip #3: Drink Light.**

Who says you can't drink and be merry this X'mas? You can with San Mig Light. It's the beer suited for family reunions, barkada gatherings and office parties – perfect for mahaba-habang inuman. Now you can catch up with all your long lost relatives and friends all night long guilt-free with right alcohol, less filling San Mig Light.

So to stay light this holiday season, make sure you still have fun. Just don't forget to stay active and eat healthy. In everything else in life, remember to take things in moderation. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all!



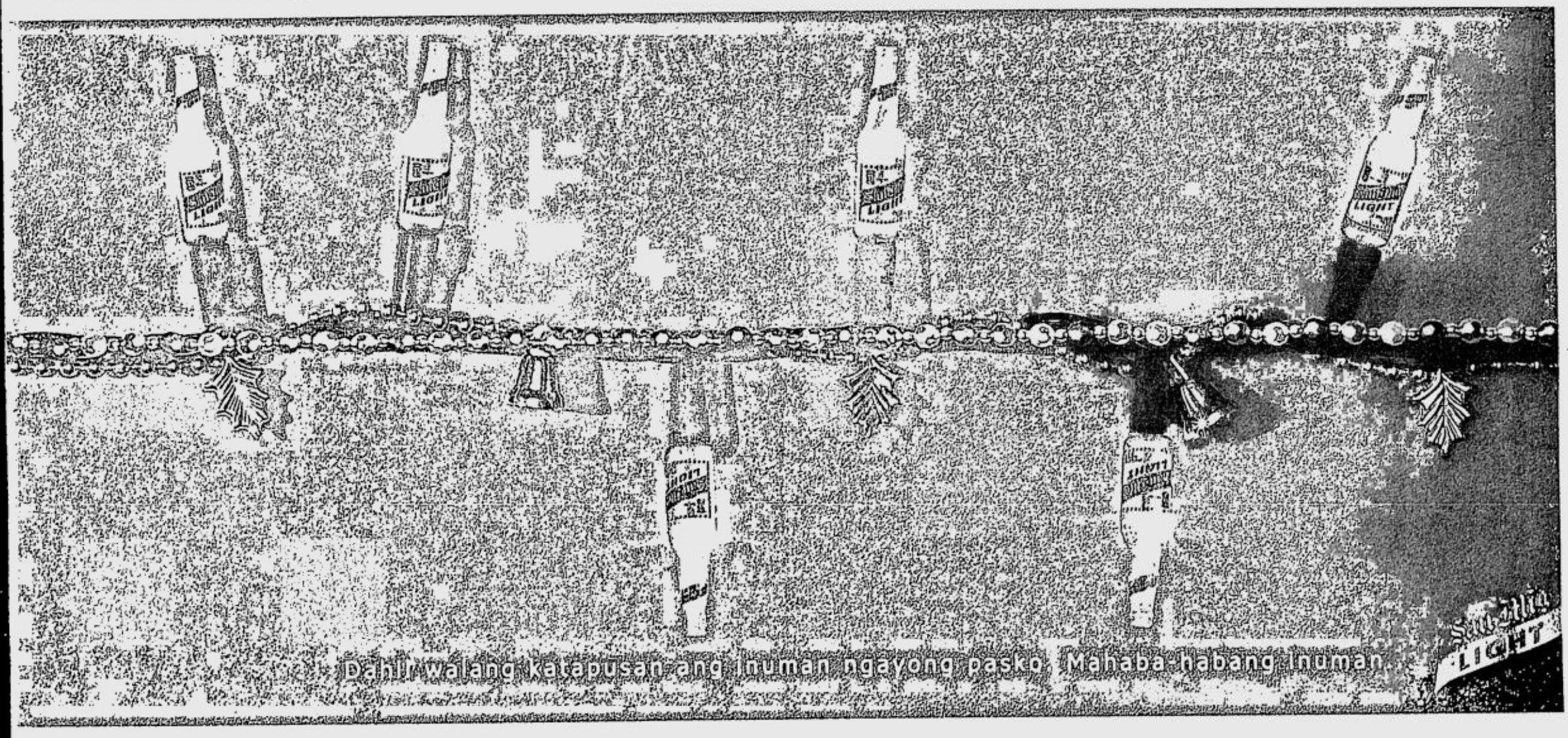
## JOHN JOE JOSEPH

**People might be surprised to know that** I'm actually a nice guy.
**The most important thing I've ever learned is** that you cannot trust just anyone.
**The worst thing that ever happened to me was** that I hurt someone's feelings.
**And what this taught me was** that I open my big mouth too much.
**My best-ever outfit consisted of** a chain, pants, *sando*, cap and shades.
**My Super! Saturday night consists of** rock 'n' roll.
**The soundtrack to my life would include** "Free Bird" by Lynrd Sknrd.
**If I were invisible for a day,** I would go inside the ladies' dressing room.
**The things that make me most angry are** delays!
**The best thing about family is** that they're always there.
**When I'm gone, they'll probably say** "Keep on rockin', brothas and sistahs!"
**The world would be a much better place** if "change" was more accepted by the older generation.
**My hero is** my dad!
**The thing that makes my life worth living is** family and friends.
**My most embarrassing moment was when**—nothing in particular. When I forget people's names and they know mine—that's embarrassing.
**I'm saving up for** my own place.
**My biggest indulgence is** alcohol.
**My current state of mind is** anxious, happy, excited!
**My five favorite words are** sex, rock, metal, edgy, sick.

PHOTOS BY ERIK C. UONGOREN
MAKEUP BY BARBI CHAN
STYLING BY BEBETH TIMBOL
CLOTHES BY LOUIS CLAPAROLS (FOR SARAH, MAIKE, CESCA, MARIEL AND REEMA) AND X ACT (FOR MARC AND JOHN JOE)
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE FORT ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

## MARIEL RODRIGUEZ

**The thing about fame is** that you shouldn't let it go to your head.
**People might be surprised to know that** I love *puto*!
**The most important thing I've ever learned is** that it's okay to be nervous. That really helped me with what I do.
**The worst thing that ever happened to me** was that I slipped on the stairs on my first day of college in front of so many people!
**And what this taught me was to hold on to the railing.**
**The secret to happiness is** lots and lots of sugar!
**The soundtrack to my life would include "I'll be There For You" by The Rembrandts**
**If I were invisible for a day,** I would go inside McDonald's and see what's the real deal.
**The thing that makes me most angry is** someone stepping on my new shoes!
**When I'm gone, they'll probably say "Ah... she made us laugh!"**
If money was no object, I would [illegible] shoe cabinet like that of Imelda Marc[illegible]
**My hero is** my lolo.
**My greatest hope for the future is** to have a family of my own.
**My favorite moments are** whe[illegible] my boyfriend and we pig out a[illegible] comedy films.
**My biggest indulgence is** choc[illegible]
**My five favorite words are** pin[illegible] love, strength, faith

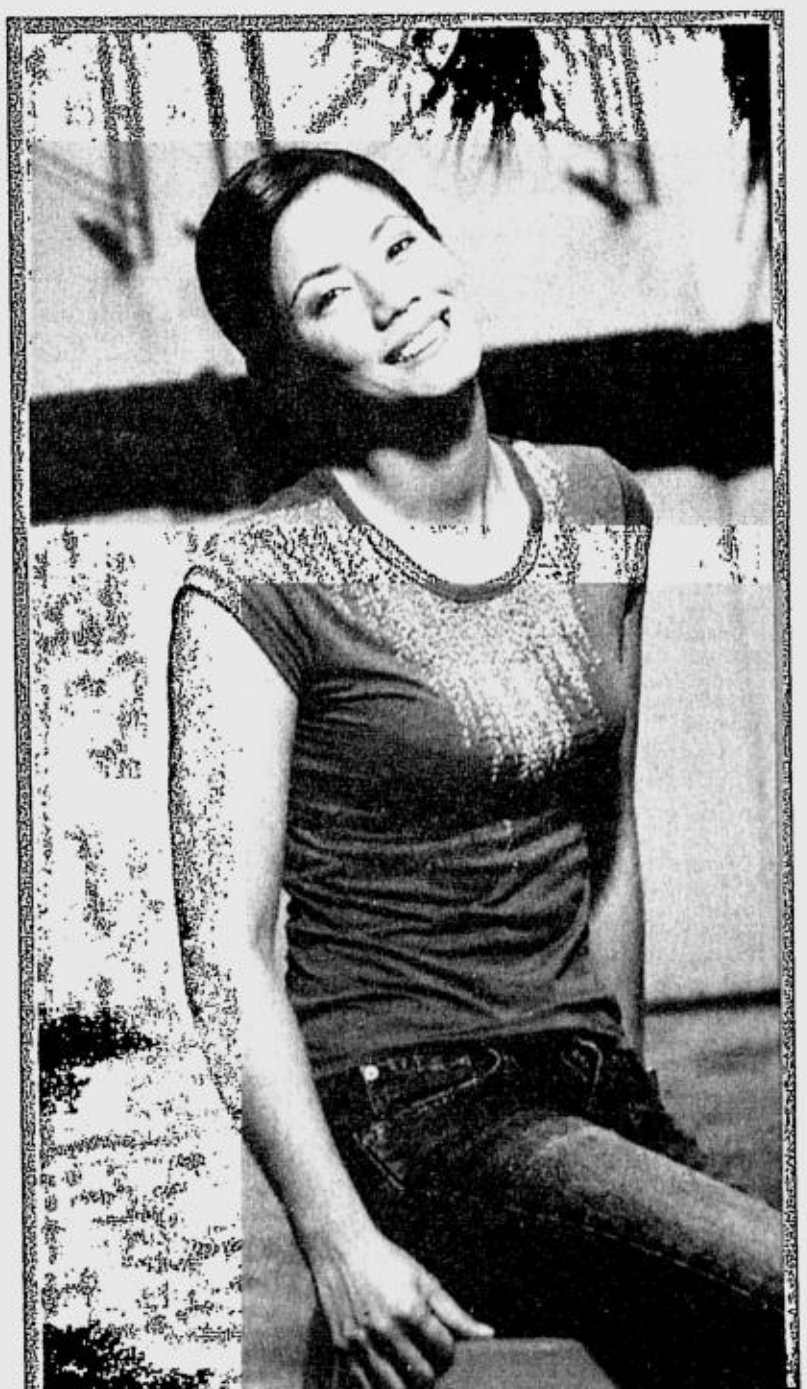



## MAIKE EVERS

**The thing I love most about what I do is the** variety and the travel opportunities.
**People might be surprised to know that I** love to wrap gifts.
**The most important thing I've ever learned** is that you should value the close friends and family you have. Spend your time wisely with the people you enjoy being with.
**I wish when I started off I'd been told to be** careful who you trust, you don't know if there's a hidden agenda.
**The worst thing that ever happened to me** was when my father passed away.
**And what this taught me was** you need to cherish the people you love and spend time with them as you never know how long you will have them for.
**My Super! Saturday night consists of** front-row seats at an Usher concert with backstage passes!
**The soundtrack to my life would include** "Return to Innocence" by Enigma.
**If I were invisible for a day,** I would check out Brad and Jen's pad!
**The thing that makes me most angry is be**ing helpless and frustrated when you watch a loved one in pain or engaging in self-destructive activities.
**If I were the most powerful person on earth,** I'd find a way to cure hunger and demand world peace!
**The world would be a much better place if** women were in charge!
**My hero is** my mom.
**The thing that makes my life worth living** is the thought of all the exciting experiences ahead, the countries to explore and the people I love.
**My favorite moments are when I'm con**tented with life and enjoying the company of my friends.
**I'm saving up for** my first place/apartment.
**My current state of mind is** single, successful and fabulous!
**My five favorite words are** "It's free!" (that's two), shopping, chocolate and travel.

## REEMA CHANCO

**The thing about fame is** that it is temporary.
**The thing I love most about what I do is** meeting beautiful people.
**People might be surprised to know that** I love pop.
**The most important thing I've ever learned is** that doing what you love rocks!
**I wish when I started off I'd been told** to get as much sleep as I can.
**My best-ever outfit consisted of** a visor and uniform.
**My Super! Saturday night consists of** hanging out with my Frisbee friends after a tourney.
**The soundtrack to my life would include "Got to be Real" by Lisa Stansfield.**
**If I were invisible for a day,** I would go inside people's houses and snoop around.
**The thing that makes me most angry is** not eating on time.
**If I were the most powerful person on earth,** I would demand that education be free for everyone everywhere in the world.
**If money was no object, I'd travel around the world.**
**My hero is** my mother.
**The worst thing somebody said about me was** that I was boring.
**My most embarrassing moment was** when I went out of the pool and my boob was peeking out!
**I'm saving up for** a car.
**If someone were to play me in my biopic, it would be** Angelina Jolie
**My five favorite words are** rocks, rules, bomb, sure and super



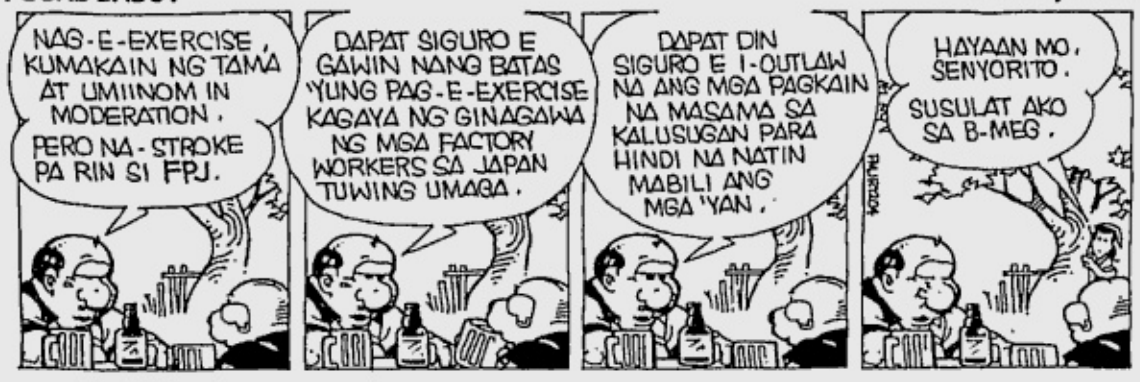
VJ MO/ C7

**FOXTROT** BY BILL AMEND

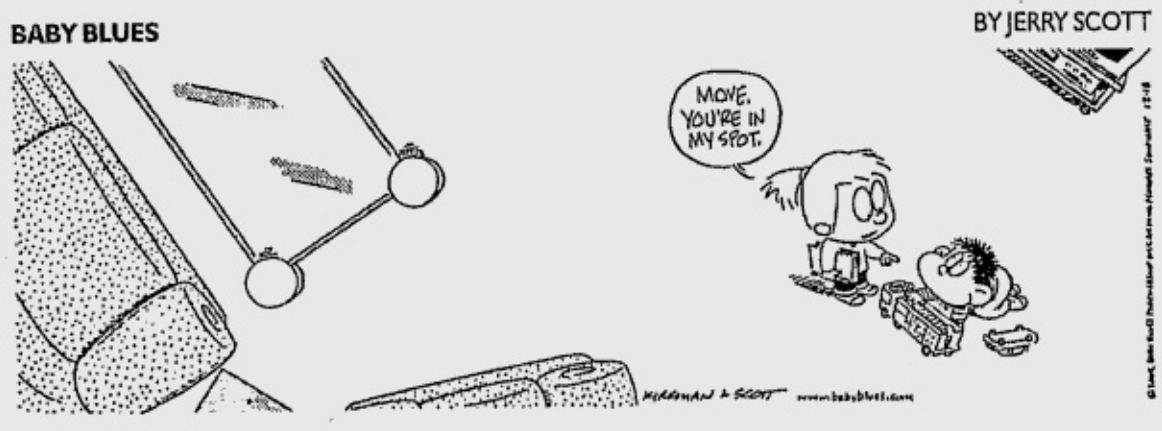
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA

**MARVIN** BY TOM ARMSTRONG

**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR

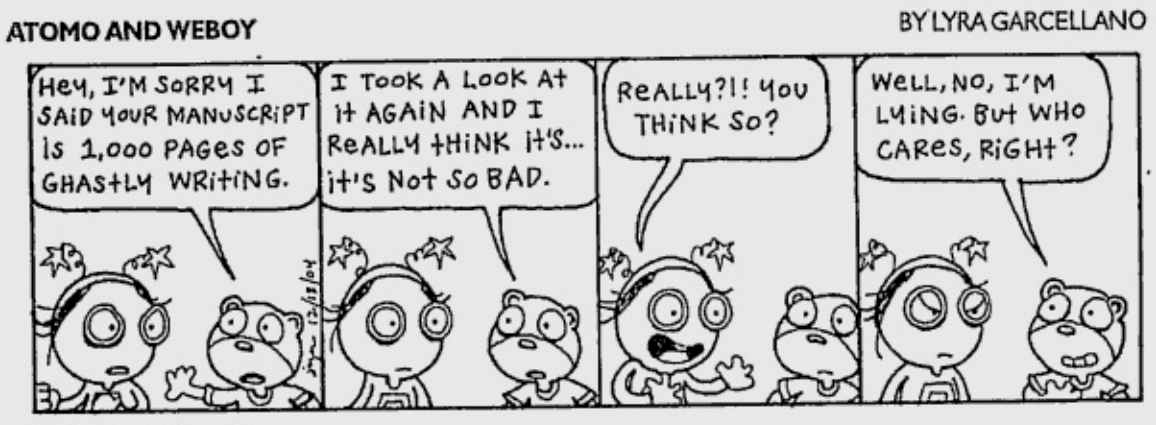



**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT

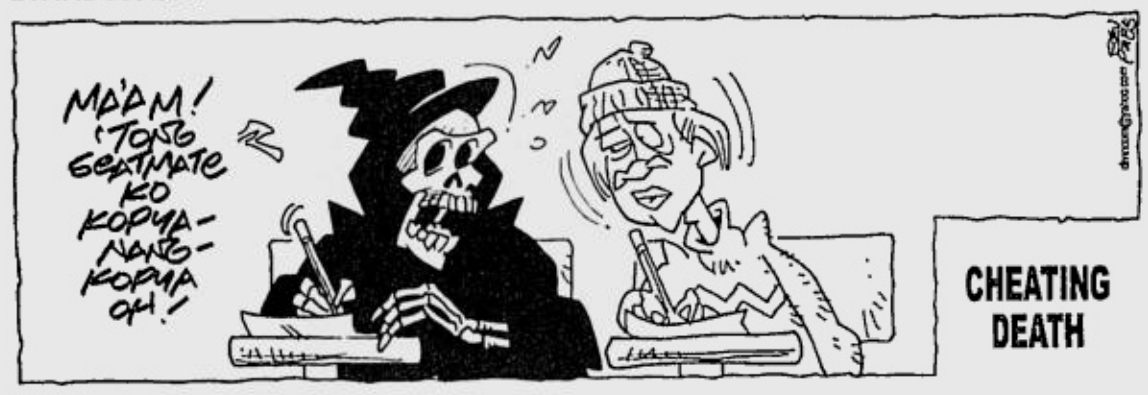



**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL

**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO




**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS




## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're not afraid to tackle big projects. You see life in big, broad strokes. You plan for the future; nevertheless, you don't overlook details. Your ambitions often exceed what others believe is possible. (This never holds you back.) The year ahead is full of exciting new beginnings for you. Dream big!
**Birthdate of:** Brad Pitt, actor; Katie Holmes, actress; Keith Richards, musician.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Don't be too quick to believe everything you hear today. Just because it's packaged well doesn't mean it has truth and value. It might just be a flash in the pan.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You might get a sudden gift today, or you might suddenly lose something. Financial surprises can go either way. Keep your eyes open! (For the most part, luck is with you.)

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Discussions with others surprise you today. You're suddenly hearing stuff from out of nowhere that you had no idea even existed! (At least it makes for an interesting day.)

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** A pleasant surprise at work will catch you off-guard today. There will definitely be interruptions to your daily routine; however, they will be welcomed!

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** This is the kind of day where you can fall in love at first sight, or maybe second sight. The object of your desire is probably someone who is a bit unusual or different from you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** You might bring home something that is new, fancy and technological or some kind of special gadget. Something modern is introduced in a new way to your personal world.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Expect to meet new and unusual people today. It's a good day to strike up acquaintances, especially with people who are from a different background than yours. You'll learn something new and exciting.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Watch out for impulse spending today. You're very tempted to buy something on the spur of the moment. (At least keep your receipts.)

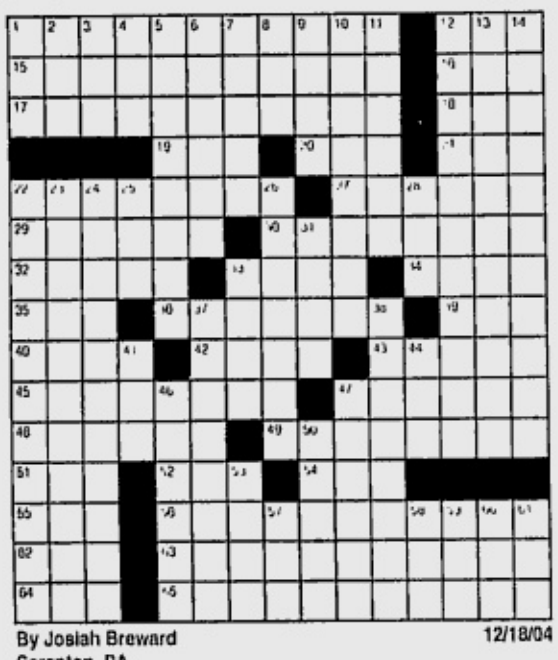
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** This is an exciting day! You're bubbling with energy. New possibilities for different adventures make you eager to go for the gusto. (Life is good!)

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** In a deep, private moment, you might have a little revelation about yourself or your relations with others. Keep an open mind about this. You can learn something new about yourself.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Your networking skills will introduce you to people today. You might also meet new faces through groups. These new acquaintances are exciting in an electric sort of way.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Unexpected opportunities to promote your good name exist today. You will definitely make a great impression on others now. (Do your little tap dance.)

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
12/18/04

**ACROSS**
1 "Downtown" singer
12 Friction reduction device
15 Repeatedly
16 Southern constellation
17 Gorbachev's reforms
18 Amtrak and B&O
19 Spanish uncle
20 Poorly lit
21 Wager
22 Mixtures
27 Himalayan language
29 Narrow and elongated
30 Male hormone
32 Namesakes of a wire-haired terrier
33 Sports infraction
34 City in Transylvania
35 Madrid Mrs.
36 Mate
39 Womanizer
40 Beer buys
42 Pairs
43 "A Bell for __"
45 Maxim
47 Manifest
48 Fourteen-line poem
49 Solar events
51 Onassis, to pals
52 Tic-toe tie
54 NATO cousin
55 PMs
56 Bugs and booms
62 Retrieve
63 Unfavorable condition
64 Magazine VIPs
65 Polish-German border

**DOWN**
1 Soda
2 Night before a holiday
3 Part of Canada's Y.T.
4 Mary of "Where Eagles Dare"
5 Point of death
6 Upas tree poison
7 Type of portable memory
8 Old card game
9 Ardently eager
10 Breathe fresh life into
11 "Seinfeld" character
12 Trash containers
13 Lack of pertinence
14 Beatings
22 Mount McKinley location
23 Delivered erroneous news
24 Opponents
25 Pastoral spot
26 __ and Principe
28 Escape vehicle
31 Convent crowd
33 60s dance
37 Australian city
38 One who enraptures
41 Universal meas.
44 Chip scoopful
46 Cossack chief
47 Slip by
50 Colorado Rockies field
53 Fifth of MXXX
57 Notes of scales
58 Naval grp.
59 Ida. neighbor
60 Wind dir.
61 Ukr. or Lith., once

Friday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | M | U | ■ | B | U | D | ■ | M | A | R | C | H | O | N |
| P | U | C | C | I | N | I | ■ | O | P | A | L | I | N | E |
| I | S | L | A | N | D | S | ■ | R | E | P | U | T | E | S |
| C | H | A | R | G | E | C | A | R | D | S | ■ | R | S | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | O | R | E | R | O | ■ | H | A | E | ■ | ■ |
| P | U | S | S | ■ | P | R | O | W | ■ | F | L | C | A | R |
| A | S | T | ■ | S | A | N | D | S | ■ | E | M | O | T | E |
| M | E | R | E | L | Y | ■ | ■ | ■ | S | T | A | R | E | S |
| P | R | I | M | A | ■ | C | H | A | T | S | ■ | D | S | T |
| A | S | K | I | P | ■ | L | E | N | A | ■ | L | S | T | S |
| ■ | ■ | E | L | S | ■ | A | L | N | I | C | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | V | D | ■ | H | A | M | M | E | R | L | O | C | K | S |
| R | I | O | L | O | B | O | ■ | I | W | O | T | O | N | E |
| I | N | W | A | T | E | H | ■ | T | A | N | S | I | E | S |
| M | O | N | I | S | T | S | ■ | E | Y | L | ■ | F | E | E |

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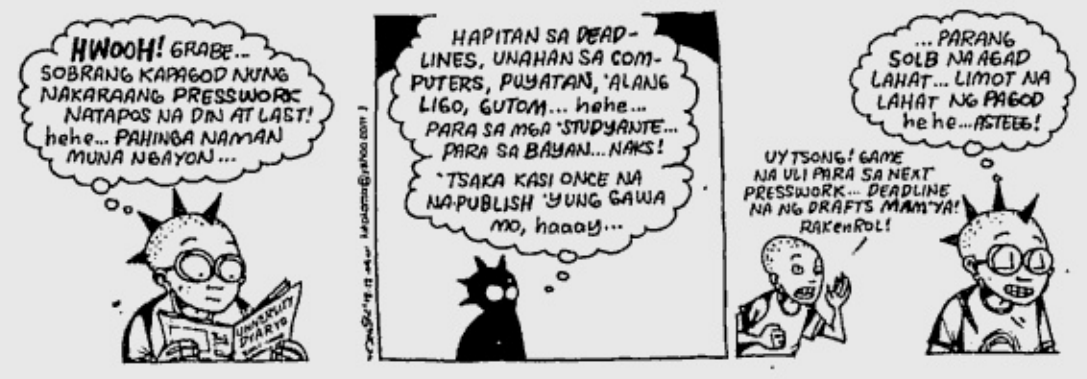
**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON

**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA




**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

## SARAH MEIER

**The thing about "Fame" is** that the movie was okay; but the legwarmer craze it started—now that was powerful.
**The thing I love most about what I do is** my officemates make me seem normal; angelic even.
**People might be surprised to know that I** skipped a grade in school.
**I wish when I started off I'd been told to** save money. Wait, I *was* told…
**The worst thing that ever happened to me was** that I was mobbed by 50 guys in India.
**And what this taught me was** to not do shoots in Indian markets in a tube top.
**The secret to happiness is** a cup of hot chocolate.
**My best-ever outfit consisted of** a P7-million necklace.
**My Superl Saturday night consists of** far too many people.
**The soundtrack to my life would include** "I Don't Wanna Be a Player No More."
**If I were invisible for a day,** I would sit in my little brother's classroom.
**The thing that makes me most angry is** boredom.
**If I were the most powerful person on earth,** I'd be unhappy.
**When I'm gone, they'll probably say** that I could've thrown a better farewell party.
**If money was no object,** I would be in a different country every month.
**When I retire, I would like**—RETIRE? What's that?
**The world would be a much better place if** the Philippines implemented traffic laws.
**My hero is** Kimora Lee Simmons.
**The thing that makes my life worth living is** the kids that tell me they want to be like me when they grow up.
**The worst thing somebody said about me was** that I was dead.
**My favorite moments are when** nobody's looking.
**I'm saving up for** a yacht.
**My biggest indulgence is** buying unnecessary toys.
**My current state of mind is** frantic.
**If someone were to play me in my biopic, it would be** Katie Holmes.
**My five favorite words are** salary, free, naïve, Episcopalian, shrimp
**I aspire to be** stable.

# mo 'ko!

From page C5

## CESCA LITTON

**The thing about fame is** that you lose your privacy.
**The thing I love most about what I do is** I have fun while I'm working.
**People might be surprised to know that** I'm not really very kooky.
**The most important thing I've ever learned is** that you should never depend on other people to make you happy.
**I wish when I started off I'd been told** to buy more clothes.
**The worst thing that ever happened to me was** that my two best friends fought and things are never going to be the same.
**The secret to happiness is** being contented but still working towards that dream.
**My best-ever outfit consisted of** a pair of jeans.
**My Superl Saturday night consists of** a great dinner, a good movie, and maybe a club with some good hip-hop music.
**The soundtrack to my life would include** "Happy Ending" by Avril Lavigne.
**If I were invisible for a day,** I would watch people and eavesdrop on conversations.
**The thing that makes me most angry is** when I catch people lying to me.
**If I were the most powerful person on earth,** I'd probably be trying to live a normal life.
**The best thing about family is** that we're all crazy.
**When I'm gone, they'll probably say** "Come back!"
**If money was no object,** I would be traveling all over the world.
**When I retire, I would like** to live in my own beach house.
**The world would be a much better place if** people stopped spreading and inventing rumors.
**My hero** is my dad.
**The thing that makes my life worth living is** my family and friends.
**My greatest hope for the future is** maybe people would stop being selfish and not pull each other down.
**The worst thing somebody said about me was** --
---
**My favorite moments are when** I'm just sitting down, chilling with the people I love, drinking coffe, and just talking.
**My most embarrassing moment was** when I got drunk and puked in front of some guys.
**I'm saving up for** a long vacation.
**my biggest indulgence is** traveling.
**My current state of mind** is sleepy.
**If someone were to play me in my biopic, it would be** Rachael Leigh Cook or Natalie Portman.
**My five favorite words are** catch me if you can.
**I aspire to be** everything I was meant to be.

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Register and Win

Register any SAMSUNG Product purchased within 2004 and get a chance to win a SAMSUNG Digital Camcorder. To join text SAMSUNG To 2982 (Globe) or 283 (Smart), or register at www.samsung.ph, or mail your Product Registration Cards.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1515 Series of 2004

# This holiday season, SMART Gold and Automatic Centre give you a chance to win a Philips DVD Player or a Philips Plasma TV.

## For current SMART Gold subscribers

Buy any product from an Automatic Centre outlet near you and receive a promo number. Text-in this number and the appliance you will most likely buy for the holidays.

***Type:***

**Automatic** (space) **promo number / product name / brand name / subscriber's name / age / address**

***And send to*** **283**. (P2.50/Text)

Entries will earn you a chance to win:

- One of 21 Philips DVD players weekly.
- A Philips Plasma TV in the grand draw.

## Get* a SMART Gold Plan for a chance to win.

Subscribe to SMART Gold plan at a SMART Wireless Center near you and receive an Automatic Centre promo number. Text-in this number and the appliance you will most likely buy for the holidays.

***Type:***

**Automatic** (space) **promo number / product name / brand name / subscriber's name / age / address**

***And send to*** **283**. (P2.50/Text)

The higher the plan, the more numbers you receive for greater chances of winning:

- Plan 500 / 800 = 1 number
- Plan 1200 = 2 numbers
- Plan 1800 = 4 numbers
- Plan 2500 / 3500 = 6 numbers

* Conditions for subscriptions apply.

## Text **AUTOMATIC** to **283**.

**ENJOY VIVID MULTIMEDIA FEATURES ON YOUR CELFONE. SET-UP SMART GPRS AND MMS.**

To set GPRS Settings on your phone, text SET GPRS <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET GPRS <N6600>. To activate GPRS on your phone, text GPRS ON to 333.

To set MMS Settings on your phone, text SET MMS <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET MMS <N6600>. To activate MMS on your phone, text MMS ON to 333.

Promo runs December 13, 2004 to January 31, 2005. See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3325, Series of 2004.

I ♥ SMART Simply Amazing!

Automatic CENTRE PHILIPS

ALTER MEDIA SOLUTIONS INC.

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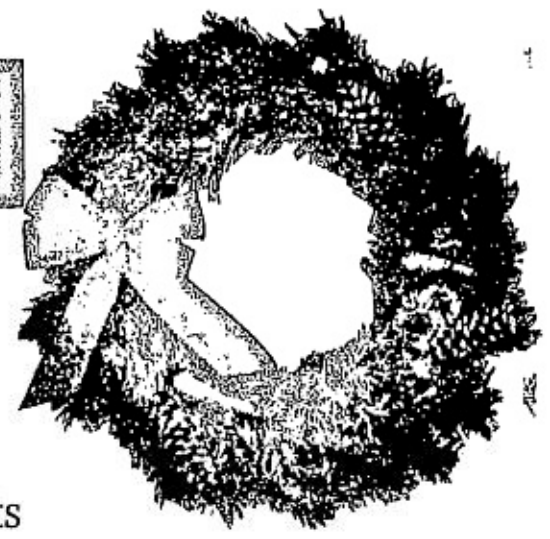
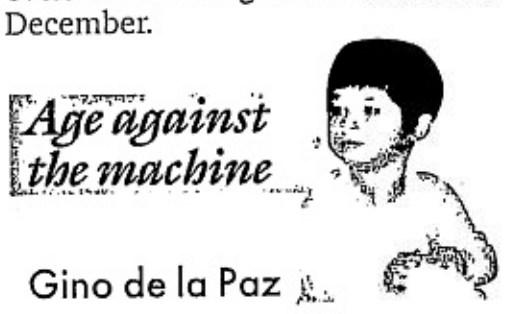
DIGITAL WET DREAM. MTV VJ Denise with the Toshiba Tablet PC

# Technosexual revolution



Through its Windows 'Experience More' event in Singapore, Microsoft let Super! cop a feel of the slickest hi-tech goodies way before they hit the streets

I MUST have died and gone straight to gadget heaven. And heaven, in this case, was the Microsoft Office in sun-soaked Singapore. With an insanely breathtaking view of both Marina Bay and the concrete sprawl of Singapore's Central Business District, the company's auditorium on the 21st floor served as ground zero for the Windows "Experience More" event held during the first week of December.




Gino de la Paz

In case you're still leading a digitally-deprived life, Microsoft is—hands down—the biggest baller in the known tech universe with its flagship software Windows becoming the accepted religion of the world's estimated 210 million personal computers. If you ask me, that's probably why global domination is now Bill Gates' calling card. And as a powerhouse that looks further than anyone into technology's future, Microsoft also happens to be on message with the all-important business of digital entertainment, urban mobility, online security, and broader access. Respect!

Three quarters of the way into the lobby, I was neither greeted by Queen Amidala (I don't know why I thought of her) nor Beyoncé (I was optimistic) but by three ladies dressed as blue fairies who handed me a few loot bags (I'm not complaining). Being an above average eager beaver, I soon ransacked the said bags and found, among other freebies and whatnot, a Philippe Starck-designed optical mouse. That was bananas! Yeah, my day was off to a wet dream start.

## Step inside my office, baby

With primary-colored sofas dotting the floor, the auditorium was set up like a really cool living room/office. Or a really cool university lecture hall/martini bar, depending on your current state of mind. (Mine was the latter, so I shifted to note-taking mode and looked for a cocktail menu. But I digress.)

Kenneth Lundin, Director of Windows Client for Microsoft Asia Pacific, gave the opening shout out and shared his vision of a wired Asia. (Of course, he was referring to computers, not drugs.) Senior Product Manager Dominic Carr then talked about the Toshiba Portege M200 and the Motorola MPx, a mad awesome phone that has Windows Mobile and flips two ways. (For those of you who dream of pimping your cell phone, the MPx's features make it a jewel-encrusted beauty.)

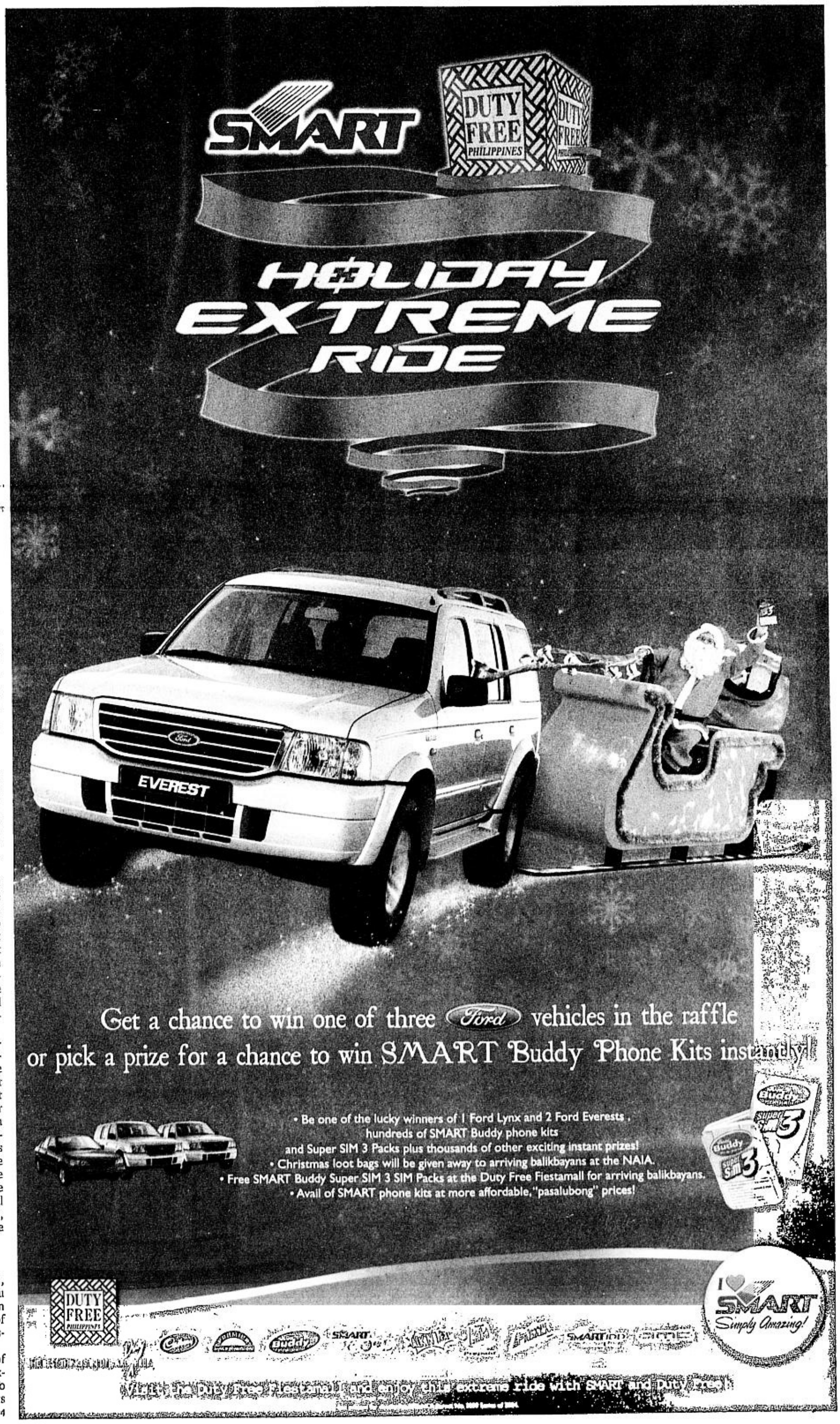
Ninis Samuel, Product Manager from Microsoft Headquarters in Redmond, Washington, followed that up by presenting the Service Pack 2 for Windows XP, a total must if you've had it with those annoying Internet pop up windows. Next, Windows Consumer Group Product Manager Susan Kittleson highsided Microsoft's bigger and better answer to TiVO, Media Center 2005, as well as Photo Story 3. (MTV VJ Denise Keller made a cameo during this part and being the youngest person in the room, I think mine was the only jaw that dropped.) The final speaker, Microsoft India's Rishi Srivastava, touched on customizing software for people who are not fluent in English.

## Tech talking

In a one-on-one powwow with Super!, Ninis Samuel shared that netizens like you and me have to be more responsible when we're online. "You should be more aware of the behind-the-scenes aspect while browsing your favorite sites," he cautioned.

Ninis was referring to the assload of viruses, data miners, and pop ups we're exposed to whenever we log on to the Web. To protect your PC from this junk, he suggests

TECHNOSEXUAL/ D4

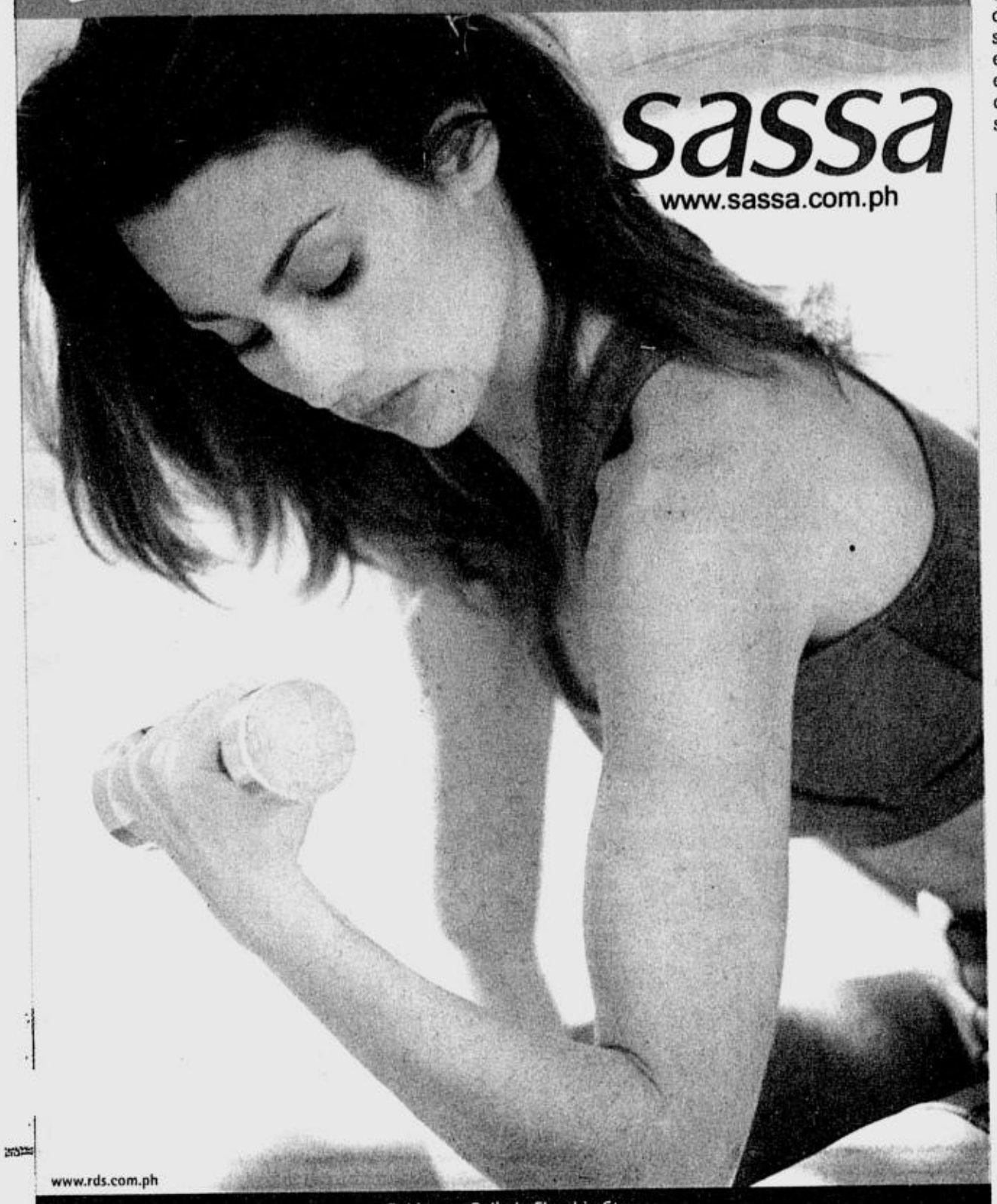


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

# Season's readings

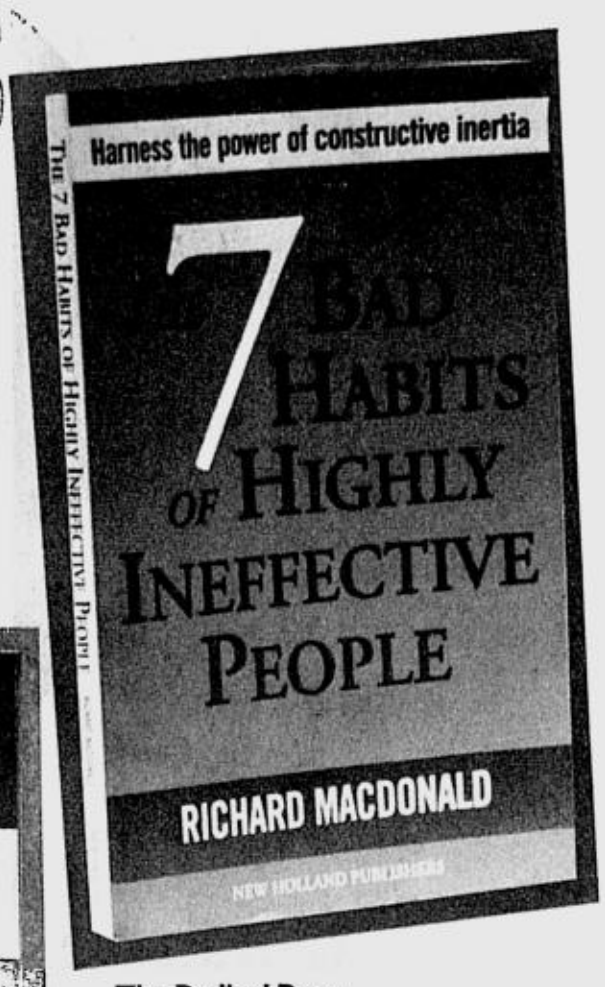
Robinsons Department Store




Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls | Waltermart Malls | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang | Nepo Mall Pampanga

By Gino de la Paz

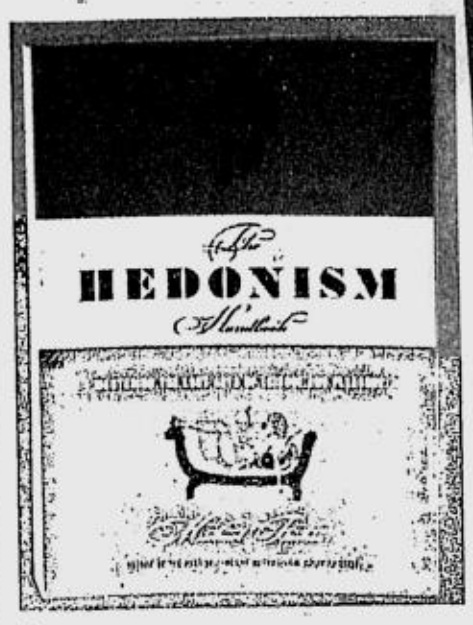
WE ALL have friends. And when the holidays come, it's a real bitch to figure out what to give them. Especially the buddies who have extremely strong, somewhat offensive, but nonetheless endearing personalities. Here are five easy-to-access books for those difficult-to-please people in your life. Season's readings!




## The Radical Bum

*The 7 Bad Habits of Highly Ineffective People P479*

Fat, fifty and perfectly happy, author Richard Macdonald gives you permission to be inadequate, second best and a whole lot less than perfect. A backlash to the forces that tell us to exceed our limitations, consider this the laugh-out-loud blueprint of constructive inertia.




## The Thinking Pleasure-Seeker

*The Hedonism Handbook P544*

Since we've all become overcaffeinated hamsters on a wheel, Michael Flocker gives a bear hug of approval to mastering the lost arts of leisure and pleasure. From decorating your crib like an opium den to enumerating the joys of getting lost, he suggests a take-it-or-leave-it approach to finding nirvana. And my favorite quote from the book? "Excess may be bad, but self-deprivation is just stupid."

## The Political Strategist Next Door

***Us & Them: What the Americans Think of the British/What the British Think of the Americans P1,015***

"The history of Anglo-American cultural exchange in terms of rap's mainstream can, at best, be compared to a couple of dairy cows trotting headlong into a stampede of bison," so goes blindingly buzzworthy MC Dizzee Rascal. The London rapper may not be in Paul Davis' book of illustrations but he sure summed up the kind of love/hate the United States and England have traded since 1776. One side has revealing quotes on how the British view their former colony ("It must be kind of good not to give a shit about the rest of the world."). Flip the book and find the American perspective of the United Kingdom ("You're like so like articulate? But like such bad teeth?"). No matter which side of the Atlantic you happen to be on, it will definitely crack you up.

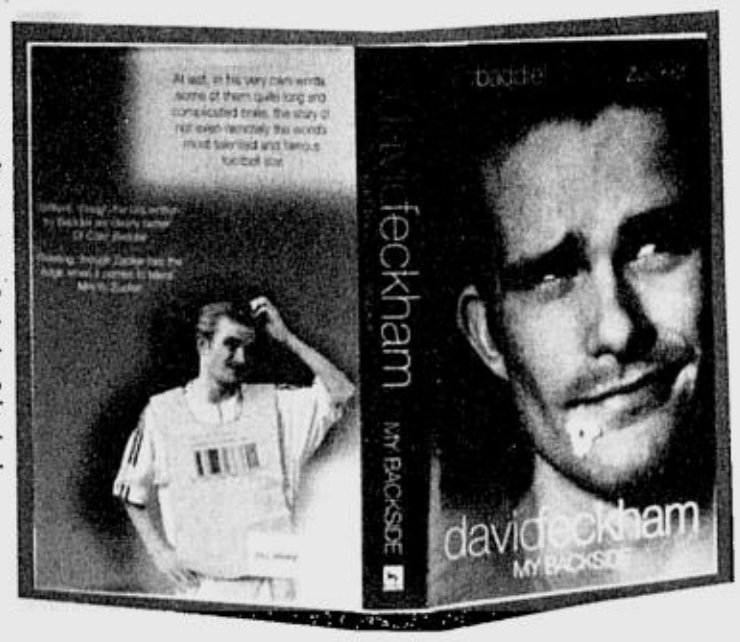
**Drink up or speak up.** Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiralling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2366 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote. Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER WWF

## The Wannabe Jock

*David Feckham: My Backside P454*

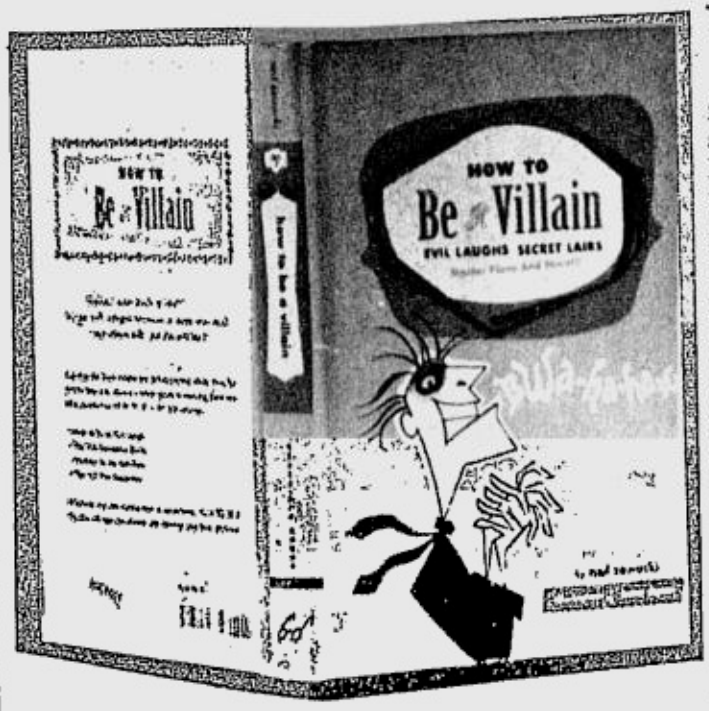
I'm really bored of the Beckhams. Apparently, so are Ivor Baddiel and Jonny Zucker. A rather skillful send-up of England's most worshipped sports superstar David Beckham, their book could either be hate mail in hardcover or a tribute in disguise. Hmmm...




## The Aspiring Baddie

*How to Be a Villain P686*

Gathering inspiration from legendary badasses such as C. Montgomery Burns, Darth Vader and your mean English teacher, Neil Zawacki dedicates a how-to to everyone "who ever thought evil was just a dream." Together with whimsical tips thwarting heroes ("You have to fight a whole team of these spandex-wearing maniacs."), he gives a handy guide on laughing, dressing and even fund raising like the ultimate evildoer. It may be Christmas, but Darkness 101, anyone?




*All available at Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall, Makati City*

## Hear no evil, CD no evil

*U2's How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb*

It's a proven fact: U2 is the only band that have kept their original members in two decades, never O.D.'d on illegal substances or gotten entangled with sex scandals. It's also a proven fact that their latest album rocks, from the gift box to the boom box. *(Available at Tower Records and Music One.)*

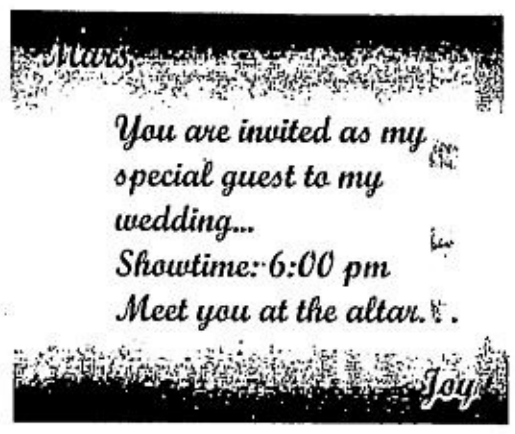
## Putumayo's Global Groove

Turn up the volume and travel the world! Get into the global groove with Putumayo's trip-happy collective, from modern Brazilian bossa nova and samba, cool Caribbean tunes, sexy Mexican mixes and Cuban salsa.

Even the eye-catching CD covers are instant mood-uppers. *(Available at Tower Records)*

## Furr-niture

Dog lovers will say "thank you furry much" with this unique line of pet furniture, brought to you by the kooky pooch lovers of SIT. They are especially designed for your precious pooches, and are so comfortable that you'd probably end up fighting over lounge time with your furry friend. *(Call 09178170023 and look for Monch fur more buying info!)*



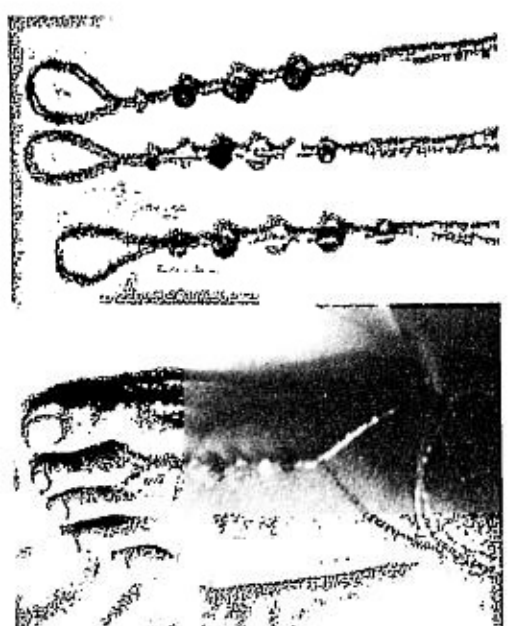

# Hello, Good Buy!

By Tals Diaz

**YOUR friends deserve more than fruitcake. So our Super! elves (all two of them) made a list, checked it twice, thrice, and found these fantastic gift buys!**

## Surfer's Turf

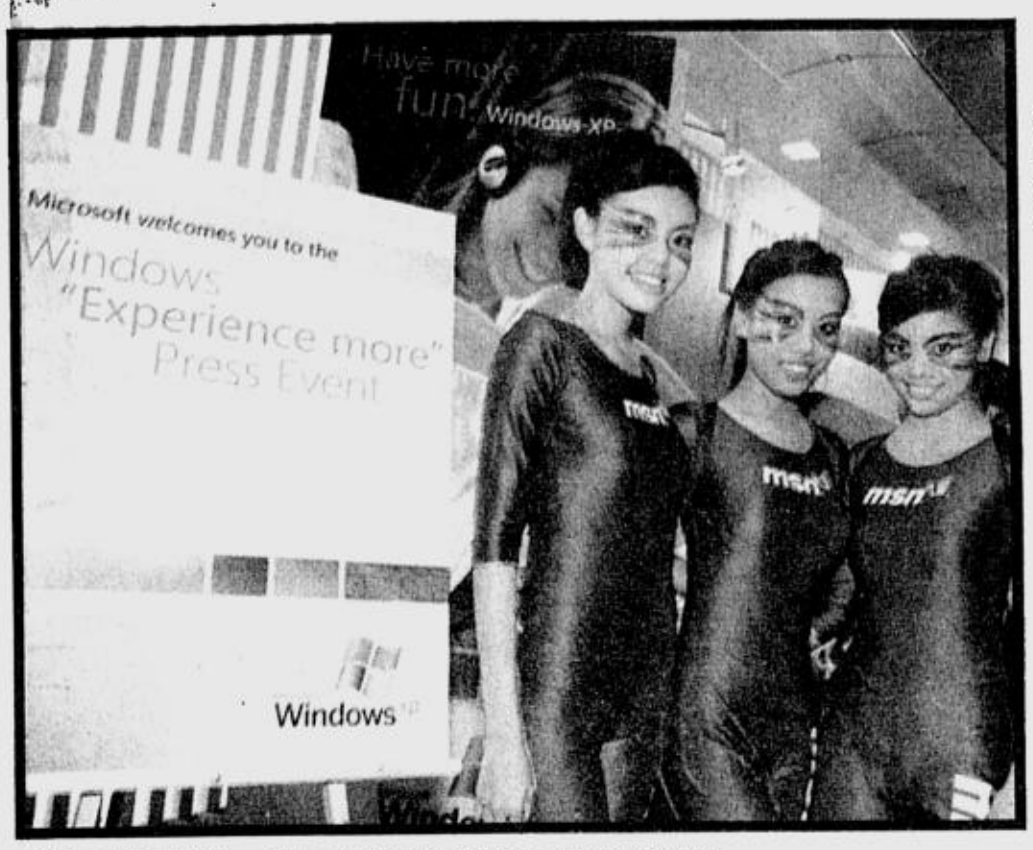
Hang out with a surfer and for some reason, the world feels like a better place. Hang out in these comfy Uno T-shirts, made by our local surfers, and you actually CAN make the world a better place! Part of the proceeds will go to a local surfer's project to help clean up our seas. *(Ride the wave and call 09194909024 or 8425277, look for Neriza)*



## Playing Footsie

Step into these unique, handmade Swarovski foot jewelry and you'll want to go barefoot forever.

Inspired by traditional Indian style, these feet treats also have a special twist: they're specially designed so you can also wear them around your neck to fasten your eyeglasses. *(Available at Heaven Sent Bazaar and Ayala Alabang Bazaar on Dec. 18 and 19, or call Margie Villa-Abrille at 8423754)*




MSN TRIPLETS. These three ladies were joined at the shoulders

# Technosexual revolution

From page D1

downloading the Service Pack 2 for Windows XP free of charge from Microsoft.com. (For my part, I now use Service Pack 2's 3-in-1 firewall, automatic update and virus update features and I rest easy knowing that, say, a "Hardcore Teen Sex" ad won't suddenly pop up while my parents are in the room.) Apart from that, he likewise explained the value of using only genuine software.

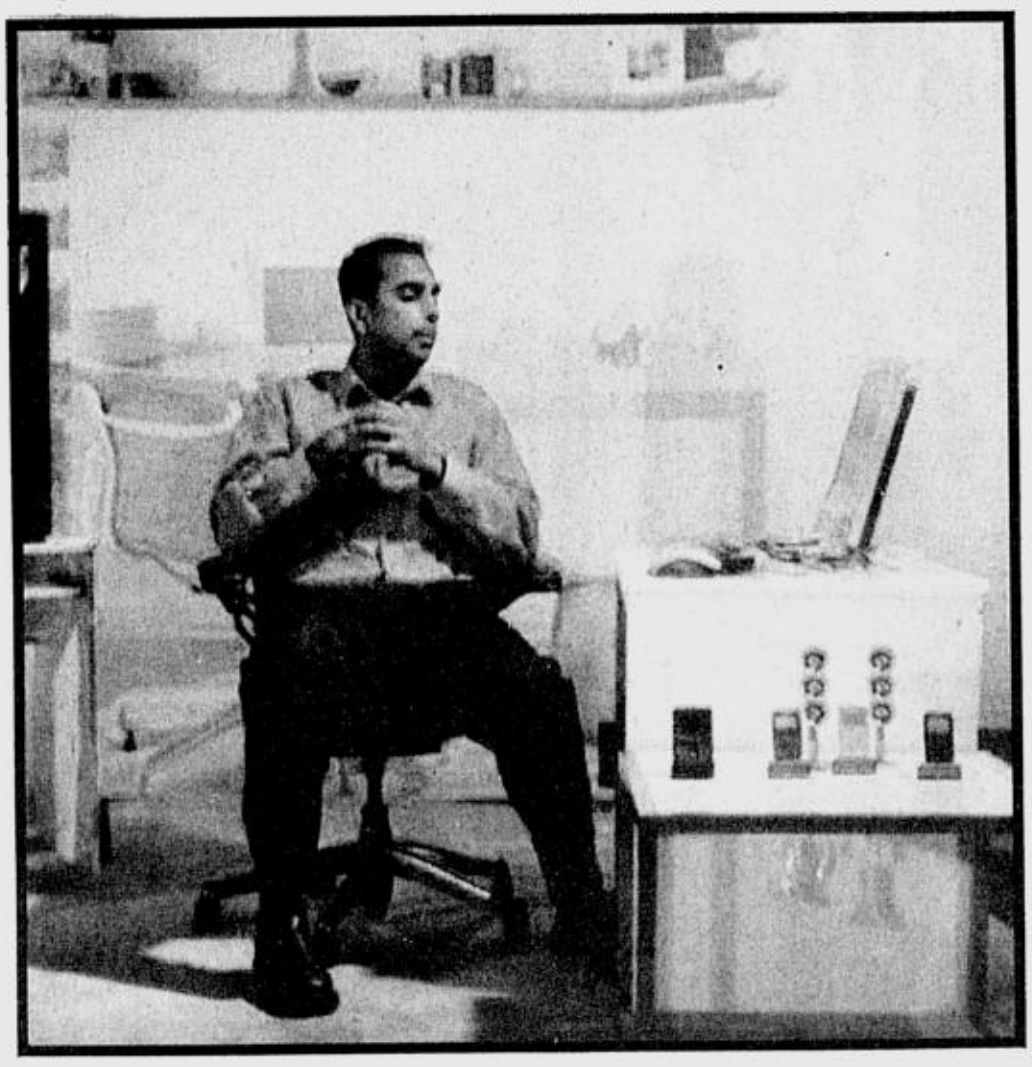
Ninis summed it all up by encouraging more consumers to explore technology. "If you're not so tech-savvy or are simply scared of gadgets, just try it. You'll see it's cool when you realize how much you can get done," he affirmed.

As a self-proclaimed technosexual, I gave Ninis a you-my-dog salute.

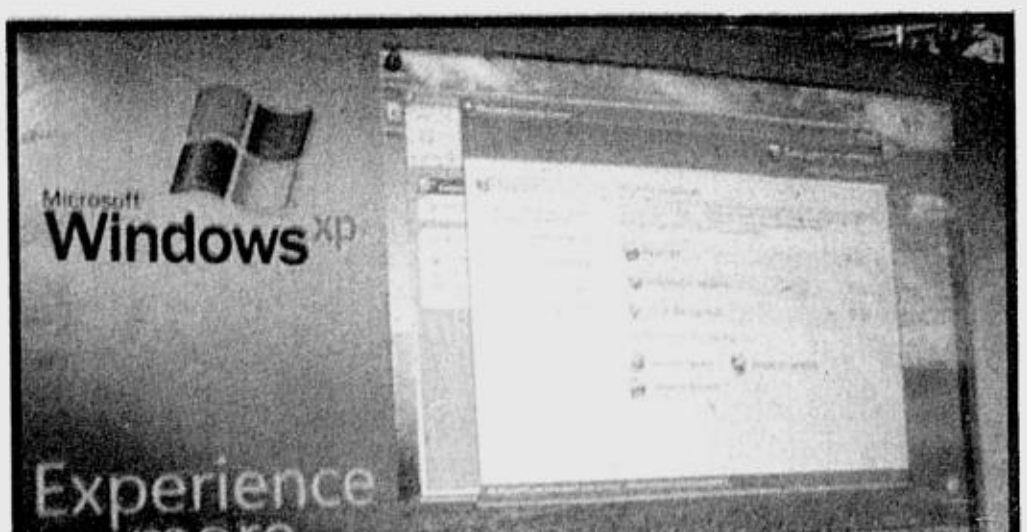
I suddenly remembered the Microsoft ad they showed earlier in the day. While tapping on her notebook computer, a woman ran through a list of all the cities she's been recently. She ended it, however, by saying that where she was at that very moment—an airport departure terminal—was her office. It's true. With our post-post-modern on-the-go lifestyles, where you work now is where you are thanks to PDAs, cell phones, and laptops. (My mobile work station has a long way to go, though, since it still looks like a Motorola Timeport in a Tod's shoe box. Sigh.)

Talking shop and clinking drinks with the hard-working but fun-loving crew at Microsoft, I realized the type of elbow grease they put into developing all these products that allow us to be more flexible and connected. By giving consumers the kind of attention they deserve, Microsoft, its partner companies, and their new innovations are sure to leave a tech legacy that will give technosexuals and technophobes alike a lifetime high. Judging by the range and quality of products Microsoft has in store for us, it's safe to assume that we will definitely experience more in 2005.

*Special thanks to Josine Bustalino, Tanya Lara, Ninis Samuel, Susan Kittleson, Dominic Carr, Kenneth Lundin, Sangita Jeyapathy, Medy Mulyono, Hiroshi Sakakibara, Nabil Chebbi, Charlene Chian and the awesome staff at The Fullerton Singapore Hotel.*



OFFICE SPACE. Tech talking with Ninis Samuel

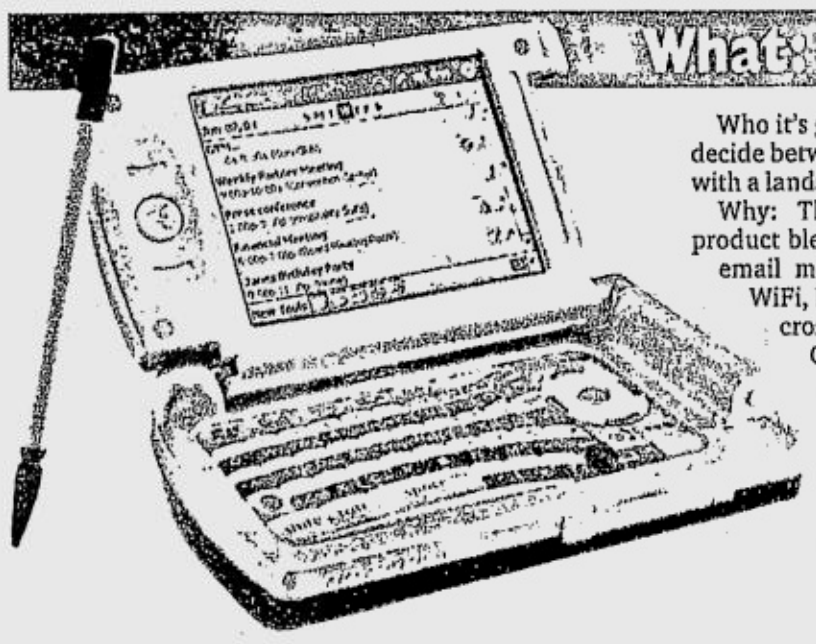



WINDOWS TO THE WORLD. Microsoft has tons in store for you in 2005

## Inspect your gadgets

# Get your paws on these toys

### What: Motorola MPx

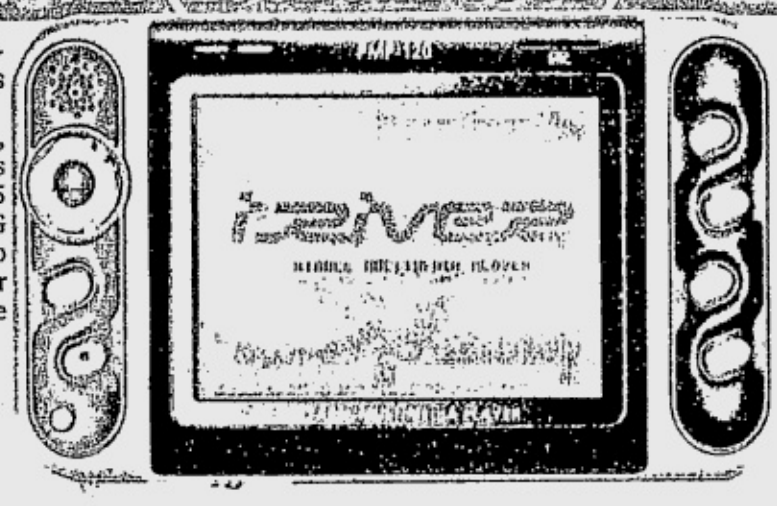


Who it's good for: Moody individuals who can't decide between a phone in clamshell mode or one with a landscape view

Why: This dual-hinge tri-band GSM/GPRS product blends the best of a cell phone, PDA and email messenger in one device with built-in WiFi, Bluetooth, 1.3 mega-pixel camera, Microsoft Windows Mobile software and 1 GB of expandable memory. Make way for the Super! phone.

When it drops: Early 2005

### What: Iriver PMP-120 (20GB and 40GB)

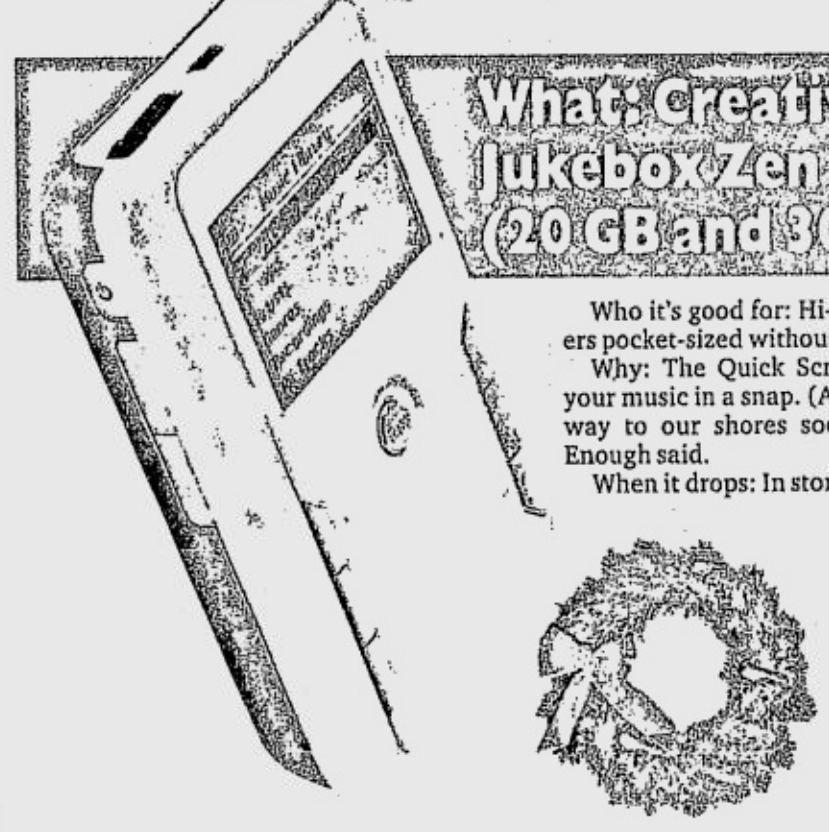


Who it's good for: Pop culture vultures who want their music, as well as movies and photos, to go

Why: Stores up to 80 hours of AVI, ASF, MPEG4 video files and subtitles for total video playback time of 5 hours; Stores MP3, ASF, WMA, OGG files for total audio playback of up to 10 hours; Acts as a photo viewer for JPEG and BMP files; FM radio; Can be hooked up to your TV. Oh. My. God.

When it drops: January 2005

### What: Creative Nomad Jukebox Zen Xtra (20 GB and 30 GB version)



Who it's good for: Hi-fi fanatics who like their MP3 players pocket-sized without compromise

Why: The Quick Scroller Navigation lets you manage your music in a snap. (A 60GB version should be making its way to our shores soon. That's 1000 hours of music.) Enough said.

When it drops: In stores now

### What: Creative Zen Micro

Who it's good for: Music fans who like ultra-compact fuss-free digital players

Why: 5GB, 2500 songs, Vertical Touch Pad, FM Radio and Recorder, and 10 colors that glow in the dark. The real slim shady.

When it drops: January 2005

### What: Toshiba Portege M200 Tablet PC

Who it's good for: Overachievers who like to develop interactive multimedia presentations, create Web design content, edit videos or brainstorm on the fly

Why: Microsoft Office OneNote 2003 offers the flexibility of a paper notebook and the power of digital note-taking. The best of the old and new schools.

When it drops: In stores now

### What: Service Pack 2 for Windows XP

Who it's good for: Internet junkies who can't close unwanted pop up windows fast enough

Why: A firewall makes your PC a true digital fortress!

When it drops: Download from Microsoft.com. For peeps with non-broadband connections, Microsoft will send you a CD copy anywhere in the world.

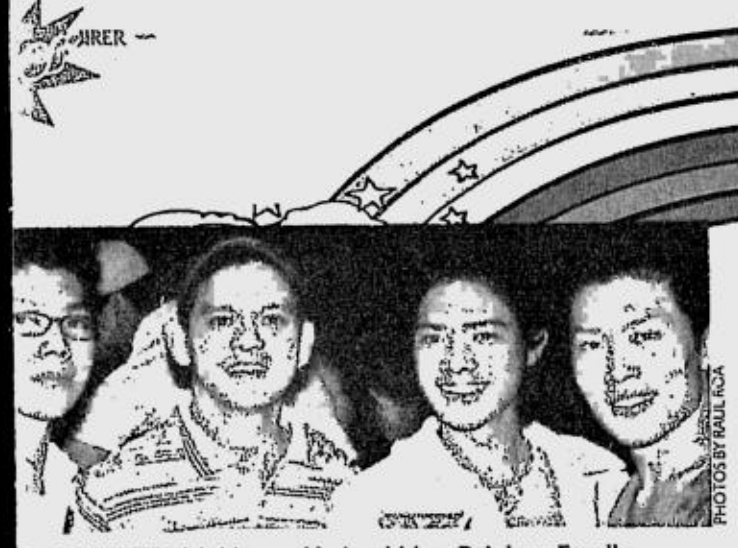
### What: Photo Story 3

Who it's good for: Technosexual shutterbugs who are sentimental and mighty proud of it

Why: Now you can edit, organize and send your digital snapshots as an email attachment that comes with its own soundtrack and subtitles. Like a hi-tech Hallmark card.

When it drops: Download from Microsoft.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



PHOTOS BY RAUL ROA

E-ORIENTED drinking and hobnobbing: Rainbow Fund's unications Director John Paras (with Martini glass) with (from jo Nones, Government resident DJ Bam Del Valle, and nment commander in chief Henry Lim

COLORS of the Rainbow Fund: (from left) Rainbow Fund treasurer Rich Jimenez, John, Rainbow Fund overall chair RC Carrion, Rainbow Fund liaison officer Amiel Hipolito, and Bed's Great Ancheta.

# he rainbow connection

By Jojo Nones

THE NIGHT when the fourth super typhoon hit Luzon, I was out partying.

Just about the time when some people were losing their homes, losing their loved ones, I was eagerly losing control of my psychomotor capacities with every cocktail glass I downed.

Just when these people were seeing their lives crumble before their very eyes, I was squinting at the early morning sunlight, only managing to step out of the club after an all-nighter.

The typhoons left huge parts of Luzon devastated. Parties always leave me wasted.

These images of contrast may be sordid, but they are true. And to a certain extent, yes, I am embarrassed of my seeming apathy.

Truth is, I wasn't aware of how much damage the super typhoons inflicted on Luzon. How could I know? I was dry and warm while some people were sleeping in wet clothes. So when I saw on TV the footages on the typhoon victims and the sufferings they had to endure, I was stunned. This may sound melodramatic, tawdry and pretentious, but yes, I cried.

## A rainbow after the rains

And the thing that made me cry the most was not the misery and disarray that the people of Quezon had to face. Rather, it was this particular group of villagers—in some far-flung, mud-stricken community—that had the raw kindness and sheer nobility to still offer food to passing refugees, in spite of their insufficient supply. What benevolence! It totally shook me out of my careless existence.

This benevolence, this powerful, wonderful, magical energy that drives people to shine with compassion, is probably the same driving force behind the Rainbow Fund—a new foundation formed by a group of self-confessed party-loving metrosexuals who bravely dare to "let society know that [partyphiles] are not just irresponsible and socially insensitive people, aimlessly partying without [thinking of] social responsibility."

"We want people to look at the gay and bisexual community with esteem," says Rainbow Fund Communications Director John Paras, who is the youngest member of the fund committee at 19 years old. "We want society to know that we truly care, that we may love to party but we also feel for our unfortunate brothers and sisters and that we're doing something concrete to help alleviate their plight."

The Rainbow Fund is allied with two of the most well-attended clubs in the metro—Government along Makati Avenue and Bed in Malate. Both clubs are favorite haunts of a beautiful and stylish set and are known in the club scene for powerful sound equipment, state-of-the-art laser lights, and current house music supplied by the clubs' resident DJs.

Each party night, usually from Wednesdays to Saturdays, club members and guests are asked to donate any amount at the entrance. Henry Lim of Government and Great Ancheta of Bed, in close collaboration with Rainbow Fund's John, also plan and implement fund-raising activities that help boost fund revenue. The money collected from both clubs shall then be combined and accounted for and eventually turned over to ABS-CBN's Sagip Kapamilya foundation.

Founders of the Rainbow Fund have identified the typhoon victims in Quezon and Aurora as the initial beneficiaries of this endeavor.

## Just the cost of one drink

"My best friend RC [Carrion, Rainbow Fund overall chair] and I, were both watching television that day, and we were shocked by the calamity that befell our fellow Filipinos," recalls Rainbow Fund treasurer Rich Jimenez.

"If there is such a thing as a man-made disaster, then this was it," says Government resident DJ Bam Del Valle. "People were rendered homeless through no fault of their own, and it's sad. Lives were lost as well and it shouldn't have happened. It did bother me that the storm was a minor annoyance to me and yet it changed many people's lives for the worst forever."

The news on TV that night affected RC and Rich. "RC was teary eyed when he told me that we should do something about it," says Rich. They then thought of an idea: if all their friends, faithful customers of Bed and Government, could only sacrifice the cost of one drink, even for just one night, the resulting money saved could already feed several families struck by the calamity.

The idea occupied their thoughts for days. While partying one night, RC and Rich bumped into an old friend, John, and they were pleasantly surprised to find that he shared the same desire to form a foundation that would help the people of Quezon and Aurora.

## Getting wasted for a cause

"Rather than simply wasting away the vibrancy of youth by partying without direction, we are giving the community an opportunity to be more socially responsible," says RC. "The owners of Government and Bed were immediately enthusiastic about supporting our vision."

"I'm very passionate about this undertaking," professes Henry of Government. "It feels so much better when you are able to give back the blessing you receive. In the end, you feel better, you sleep better."

"I feel happy that in my own way, I am able to give back to the community, to the less fortunate," adds Great of Bed. "It feels good to think that we're making this world a little better to live in."

Several events are lined up in support of the Rainbow Fund. Both Bed and Government are having special parties tonight and part of the proceeds from both events will go to the fund.

Bed is holding "Jingle Ball 2004" and will be closing down the entire Nakpil stretch for a massive street party. Government, meanwhile, is unleashing "Pink Saturday," a much-awaited theme party dubbed as "Back to the Future" with about a thousand guests expected to attend.

"The Rainbow Fund does not end with the donation to the typhoon victims," adds John. "We're planning to continue the foundation and raise funds for more projects in the future."

The Rainbow Fund committee is hoping to have a center for safe sex counseling, free HIV testing, and sex education. They're also thinking of putting up a home for aged gays who are alone in life. By forming a home for them, the committee claims, aged gays can come together and find comfort in each other, eventually ending up happier and healthier.

## Party boys make a difference

"It's nice to see the community come together," says DJ Bam. "When a community comes together to pitch in and help out those in need, it's always touching. You do what you can to help and hope that you make a difference somehow."

With the Rainbow Fund, are these party boys really making a difference? What do they say to people who trivialize such pursuit and deem it pretentious?

"I'm not here to please anyone," counters Henry. "I don't need validation. I'm doing this out of the goodness of my heart, and if people doubt our intentions, then it's their problem."

John advises naysayers to simply look out for their future projects. "The imminent success of our simple dream will speak for itself."

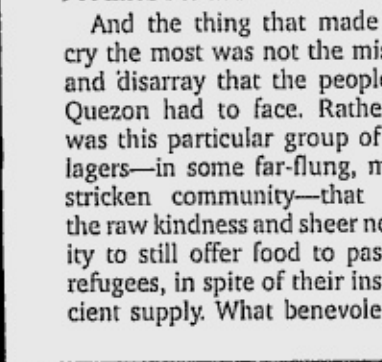
Rich adds, "Let our actions, in one way or the other, concretely manifest our intentions. There will always be disciples of negativity that will look at the glass half empty, not half full. Whether they see it as pretentious or not, it doesn't concern us—all we want is to help from the heart."

True. Whether these guys really do intend to make a difference or just simply plan to wipe away the guilt of partying while others wallow in misery, is not for us to determine. Just by forming the Rainbow Fund, just by getting together to do something concrete and tangible to help others in need, these party boys function as men of virtue.

Whether or not the Rainbow Fund raises enough money to feed a thousand families ravaged by the calamity, whether or not it continues to exist in the future and bears fruit in the form of counseling centers and homes for the aged, the good deed has already been done, the noble purpose served.

The awareness for social responsibility that these guys have imparted and are imparting to their friends and party mates will go a long way. As Rainbow Fund's Rich ably puts it, "A tidal wave begins with a single ripple." A widespread concern for those in need begins with one simple act. A national enterprise to better itself in the face of adversity begins with one person.

# h caption, ny caption!



Text by Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz

Winning caption #1: *Mukhasim talaga!*

*Sender: John Rasco*

Winning caption #2: Datu Puti's new commercial, endorsed by Manny "Pacman" Paquiao.

*Sender: Sarcophillus Satanicus*

---

RE your eyeballs among the hunds of thousands who watched nny Pacquiao pummelling his Thai onent? If yours were, you'd probathink that this photo isn't very flatng. But then again, this was taken before "The Pacman" became a l hero once again. (Cue in Queen's Are The Champions.") Being a o of the people has its perks. Manow rakes in several endorsement ls ranging from telecommunicais to... er, socks. Possibly inspired by cal vinegar brand's tagline, we hail week's caption champs John Rasand Sarcophillus Satanicus (what devil, is that really your name? Are r siblings named Beelzebub and ifer?) Congrats on knocking out competition! Call our Marketing partment at 897-8808 to claim your er! prize/Christmas freebie.

And the following captioneers also erve a round of applause:

Diatabs endorser: *Pag umatake LBM, mag* Diatabs *muna bago laban!*

*Sender: Dino Canalin*

Manny Pacquiao after a face lift.

*Sender: Andrew Joseph Salanguit*

*Diyos ko! Ang kati ng likod ko!*

*Sender: Martin Sy, Jr.*

PACMAN after chomping POWER ets.

*Sender: Willy S. Dy*

*ingnan nga natin kung di matakot ahsan sa itsura kong ito!*

*Sender: Adrian Allarey*

*Popeye, ikaw ba 'yan?*

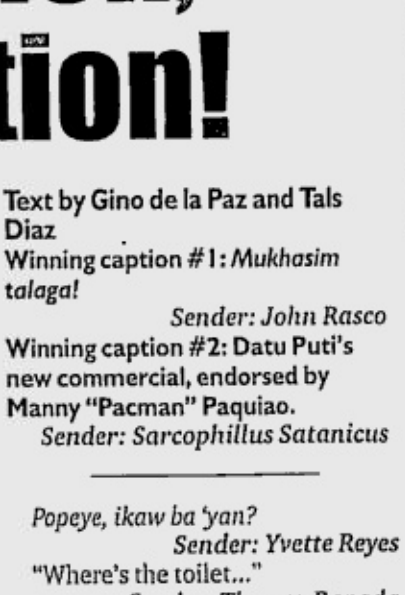
*Sender: Yvette Reyes*

"Where's the toilet..."

*Sender: Theresa Rapada*

It's been a running tradition each year at UP Diliman. Dubbed the Oblation Run, such bold and the butt-iful male neophytes check each other's cheeks as they run amuck with *supots* on their heads while the whole campus sizes them up. Now it's your turn to grab them by the balls and flog them with your witty words. Butt of course! Our Super! inbox awaits. Email us your captions at super@inquirer.com.ph.

### This week's challenge



Super's caption: Pwet and wild!

furniture

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Arabella / Fella 3-seater/2-seater Sofa Set
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Asta 3pc. Sofa Set 3-seater + 2 accent chairs
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Alladin Sofa Set (sectioned with ottoman)
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Sisley 3pc. Sofa Set 3-seater + 2 accent chairs

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2605 Series of 2004

MODELS rule!

COME to my cabaret...

PHOEM Barranda in party mode

PMAP prexy Rissa all smiles

CROSS EXAMINATION. Asset check on the door

PQ STANDS FOR POLITICAL QUOTIENT. Or Puey Quiñones

DEVILISH growl for dance demimonde

The dress code read: 'red light district' threads for fashion industry insiders, 'skin' for models and 'gay apparel' for the designers

LOTHO'S award winning performance

GUESS WHO? The headline goes, "Well-loved designer goes drag."

caught by

andy MACHE

www.dont-touch-my.com

IN GO see mode

I LOVE to boogie...

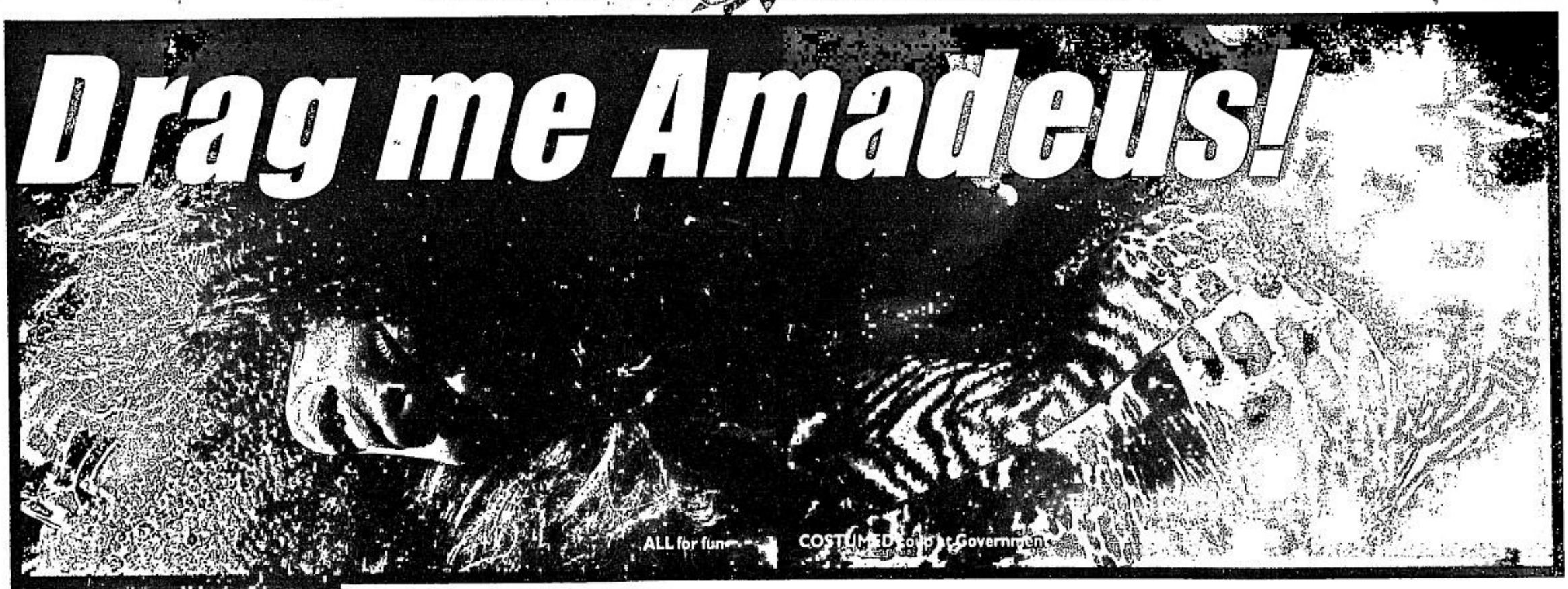
RATED R. Rene Costner in Government

YOU ARE GOLD. Always believe in your soul...

STYLISH mover Lolo Tan Gan

SEXY SAGA. Robby Carmona bares some serious skin

# Drag me Amadeus!




By Tim Yap
Photos by Andy Maluche

LIFE is a cabaret, indeed—if we are to believe the tales spun by the nocturnal characters in Government that happy happy night.

WHAT: The joint forces of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP), Young Designers Group (YDG) and Robby Carmona's Saga had their Yuletide season bash.

Taking time out of their busy holiday schedules to indulge in their fantasies, the dress code read: "red light district threads for fashion industry insiders, "skin" for models and "gay apparel" for the designers. And don they did, their gay apparel, fa la la la la la la la la.

"Designers in drag, though dramatically funny in concept, is actually downright wacky in person. Most were unrecognizable as women and could likely scale the streets of Makati right after the party without being questioned.

Wig suppliers were busy that night and so was Henri Calayag, who left me alone in Hi Salon (I had another hosting job) to attend to "beautifying" the designers and models. They all ran to their individual stylists to beg, steal and borrow the accessories just to complete their look. Career kung career.

WHO: Joey Samson looking like Mariz Ricketts (Do you remember?). Dennis Lustico resembling Snooky Serna in Blusang Itim (before or after wearing the black blouse?). Stylist Lotho doing his impersonation of Rachel Lobangco and mom Elvie. Frederick Peralta with bangs, skirt AND braces. Luke Jickain in assymetrical fishnets. Robby Carmona baring it all (he should have been in the Metro-Body Calendar). A butch Bianca Valerio as master of ceremonies (thanks for the "Model of the Year" ek-ek award, FDCP, PMAP, YDG and Saga!). Nicolette Bell, with eyebrows raised till here, looking like a mod Bella Flores. The rest of the PMAP dudes in denim cut offs.

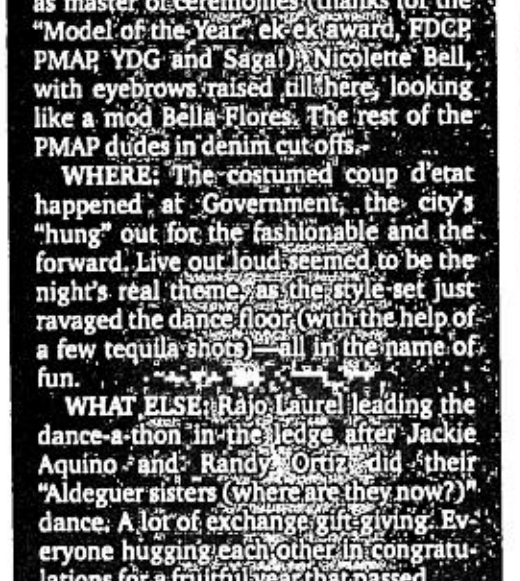
WHERE: The costumed coup d'etat happened at Government, the city's "hung" out for the fashionable and the forward. Live out loud seemed to be the night's real theme, as the style-set just ravaged the dance floor (with the help of a few tequila shots)—all in the name of fun.

WHAT ELSE: Rajo Laurel leading the dance-a-thon in the ledge after Jackie Aquino and Randy Ortiz did their "Aldeguer sisters (where are they now?)" dance. A lot of exchange gift-giving. Everyone hugging each other in congratulations for a fruitful year that passed.

"*Salamat sa suporta sa industriya*," designer Jojie Lloren waxed sentimental as he was about to hug me. His finger accidentally poked my eye. So, with tears in my eyes, I said, "anything for the industry."

On a more serious note, the photos on this spread show a bunch of models and designers all having the time of their lives—but behind all that laughter and lip gloss are countless days of hard work, of dedication to their craft, of love for their clients, of wanting to make the industry better.

So guys, girls, and everyone else in between—take a well-deserved bow.



# BE MULTIFACETED

## Four reasons to celebrate with MTV

THIS season, MTV, the country's favorite music channel, is serving up some superb entertainment with four on-air specials that are guaranteed to spread the holiday cheer. Tune in to MTV Philippines to get your fix of these must-see shows:

**MTV Fashionista Best Model Search 2004**

Make way for the country's new runway stars! Watch them as they strut down the catwalk in collections by Ignacio Loyola, Ivarluski Aseron, Frederick Peralta, Bea Albert, and Tina Daniac, and find out who took home the coveted titles at the MTV Fashionista Best Model Search 2004. See performances by some of the best hip-hop acts in the country, including 7 Shots of Wisdom, Krook & Jolo, and Sun Valley Crew. (Premiere: Dec. 18 at 10 p.m. / Replays: Dec. 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.)

**MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS**

Spread the message not the virus! See what happens when MTV brings together over 30 of the hottest local and international acts at the country's biggest concert for a cause: the MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS. Crowd favorites Bamboo, Rivermaya, The Mongols and Barbie's Cradle were part of the all-star lineup which included 6 Cycle Mind, Cambio, The Dawn, Kitchie Nadal, Kjwan, Kyla, Mojofly, Razorback, Session Road, 7 Shots of Wisdom, Sandwich, South Border, Spongecola, Stonefree, Sugarfree and Tropical Depression with Joey "Pepe" Smith, among many others. Don't miss the special performances by international guests Jay Sean, Joshua Payne, The Barbs and Duncan Sheik. (Premiere: Dec. 25 at 2 p.m. / Replays: Dec. 31 at 9 p.m., and Jan. 1 at 2 p.m.)

**VH1 Big in 2004**

From Michael Moore's standing ovation for the "Big Boat Rocker" Award to the now-infamous Anna Nicole Smith moment when she accepted this year's "Big Makeover" Award-VH1 Big in '04 didn't disappoint when delivering the wackiest moments, best performances and hottest icons in pop culture. Watch out for the year's hottest stars including Green Day, Black Eyed Peas, Maroon 5, Usher, Josh Duhamel, Paris Hilton, Serena Williams and William Shatner, among others, as they celebrated all the buzz that was. (Dec. 25 at 10 p.m.)

**NU Rock Awards 2004: Unsilent Night**

Typhoon "Yoyong" couldn't silence this year's NU 107 Rock Awards. Catch the electrifying performances from the artists and bands that rocked our nation this past year and see who went home loud and proud. (Dec. 26 at 9 p.m.)

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for free TV or non-cable subscribers, Sky Cable and Home Cable Subscribers. MTV is also available in Metro Cebu and Davao on Channel 29 for free TV or non-cable subscribers. Call your local cable operator for channel designation.

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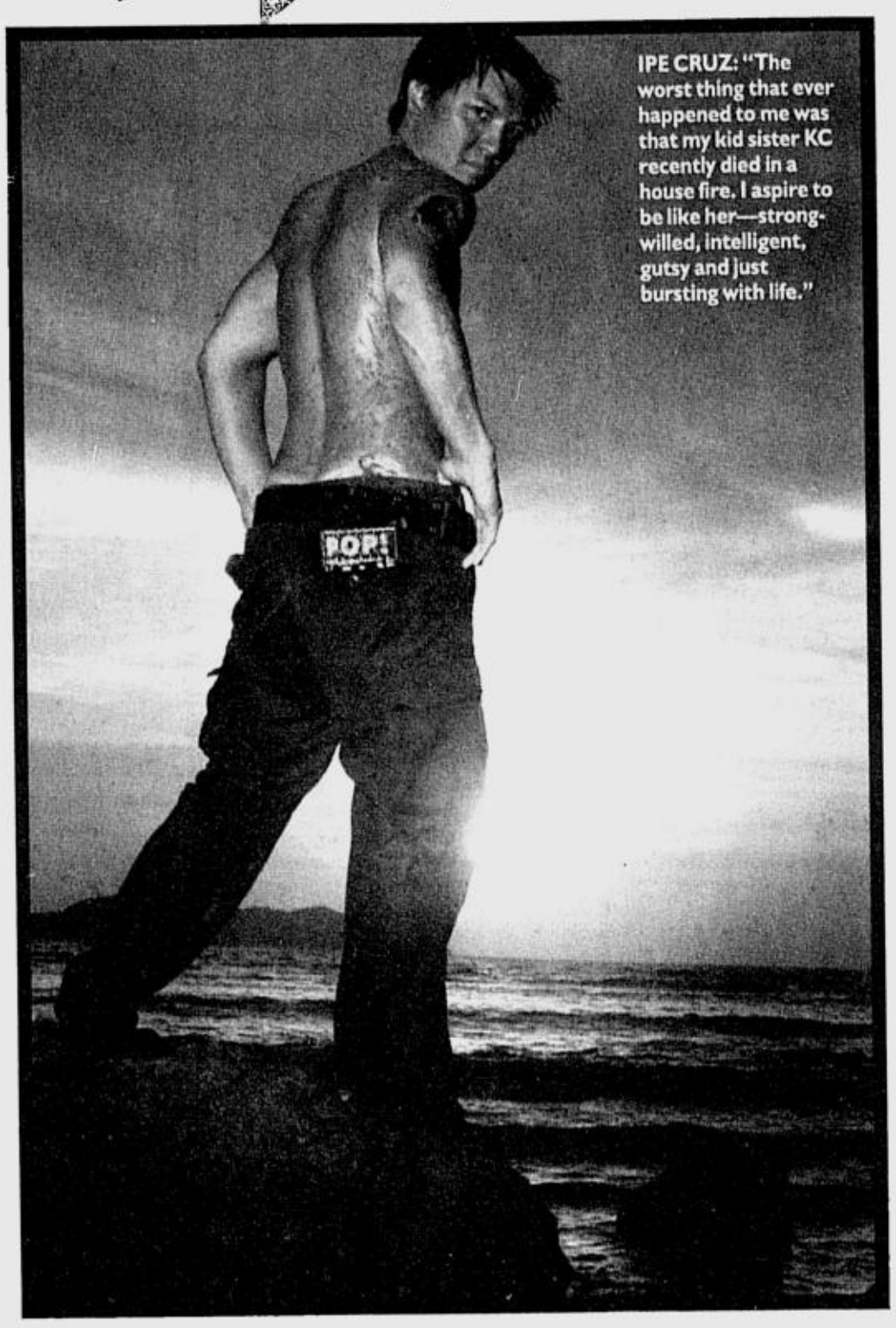
# Super 3




**IPE CRUZ: "The worst thing that ever happened to me was that my kid sister KC recently died in a house fire. I aspire to be like her—strong-willed, intelligent, gutsy and just bursting with life."**

# Santa's Celebrity Strippers

By Tim Yap

THE YEAREND pop culture curve always gets a high with the Metro Body Calendar. Each year, a crop of namedroppables from diverse fields take off their clothes in tastefully styled shoots by the country's top photographers.

This year, the motley crew of personalities became more diverse. Aside from the usual model-slash-actresses in the fold, this year sees a new showcase, involving billionaire man about town Jacques Dupasquier (shot by Ronnie Salvacion) and Shu Uemura makeup artist Xeng Zulueta, whose photo spread by Tom Epperson will sure-

SANTA'S/ E2

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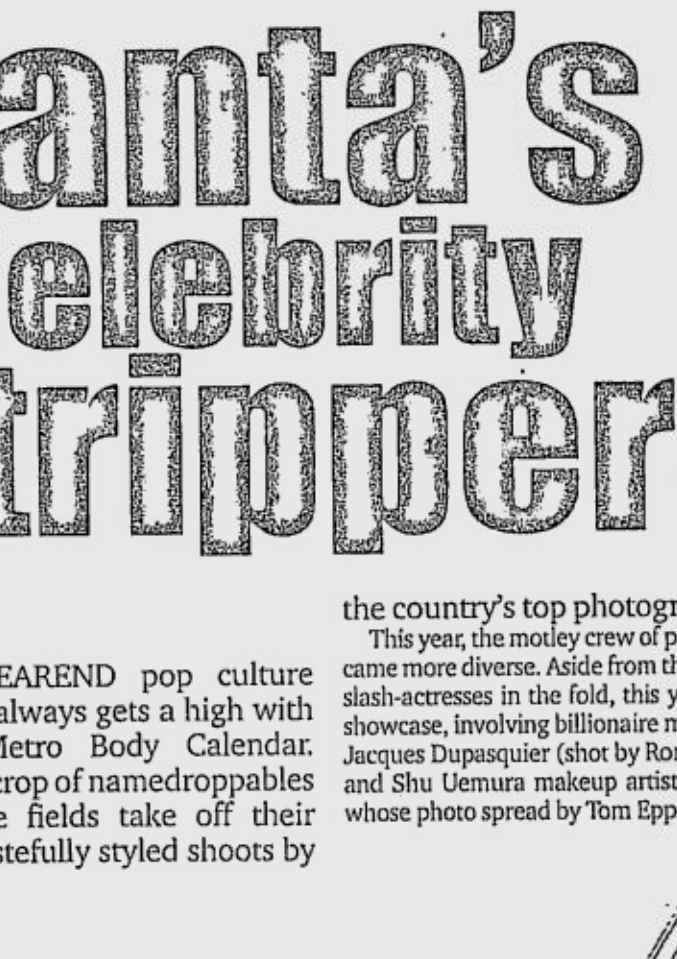
*at up to 35% off*



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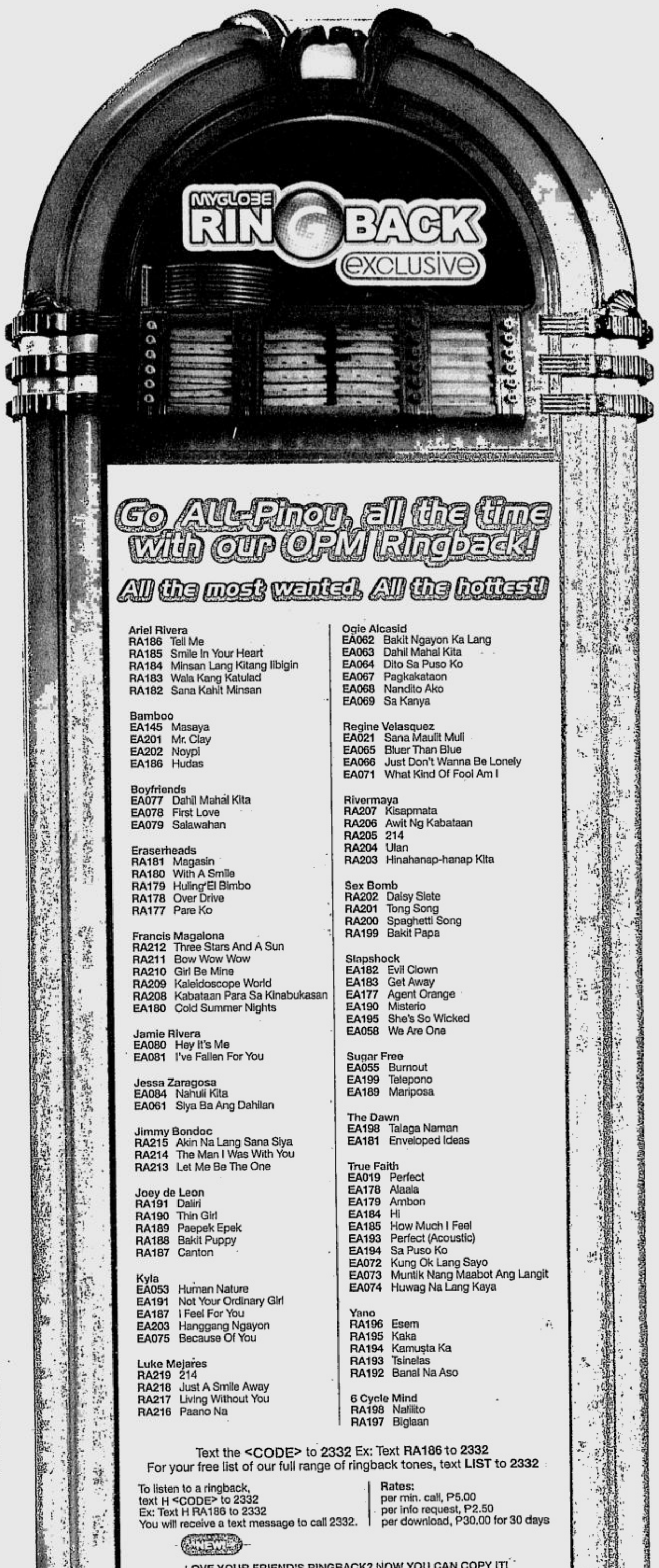


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RA177 Pare Ko

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RA209 Kaleidoscope World
RA208 Kabataan Para Sa Kinabukasan
EA180 Cold Summer Nights

Jamie Rivera
EA080 Hey It's Me
EA081 I've Fallen For You

Jessa Zaragosa
EA084 Nahuli Kita
EA061 Siya Ba Ang Dahilan

Jimmy Bondoc
RA215 Akin Na Lang Sana Siya
RA214 The Man I Was With You
RA213 Let Me Be The One

Joey de Leon
RA191 Daliri
RA190 Thin Girl
RA189 Paepek Epek
RA188 Bakit Puppy
RA187 Canton

Kyla
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EA075 Because Of You

Luke Mejares
RA219 214
RA218 Just A Smile Away
RA217 Living Without You
RA216 Paano Na

Oqie Alcasid
EA062 Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang
EA063 Dahil Mahal Kita
EA064 Dito Sa Puso Ko
EA067 Pagkakataon
EA068 Nandito Ako
EA069 Sa Kanya

Regine Velasquez
EA021 Sana Maulit Muli
EA065 Bluer Than Blue
EA066 Just Don't Wanna Be Lonely
EA071 What Kind Of Fool Am I

Rivermaya
RA207 Kisapmata
RA206 Awit Ng Kabataan
RA205 214
RA204 Ulan
RA203 Hinahanap-hanap Kita

Sex Bomb
RA202 Daisy Siete
RA201 Tong Song
RA200 Spaghetti Song
RA199 Bakit Papa

Slapshock
EA182 Evil Clown
EA183 Get Away
EA177 Agent Orange
EA190 Misterio
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EA058 We Are One

Sugar Free
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EA189 Mariposa

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EA178 Alaala
EA179 Ambon
EA184 Hi
EA185 How Much I Feel
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EA194 Sa Puso Ko
EA072 Kung Ok Lang Sayo
EA073 Muntik Nang Maabot Ang Langit
EA074 Huwag Na Lang Kaya

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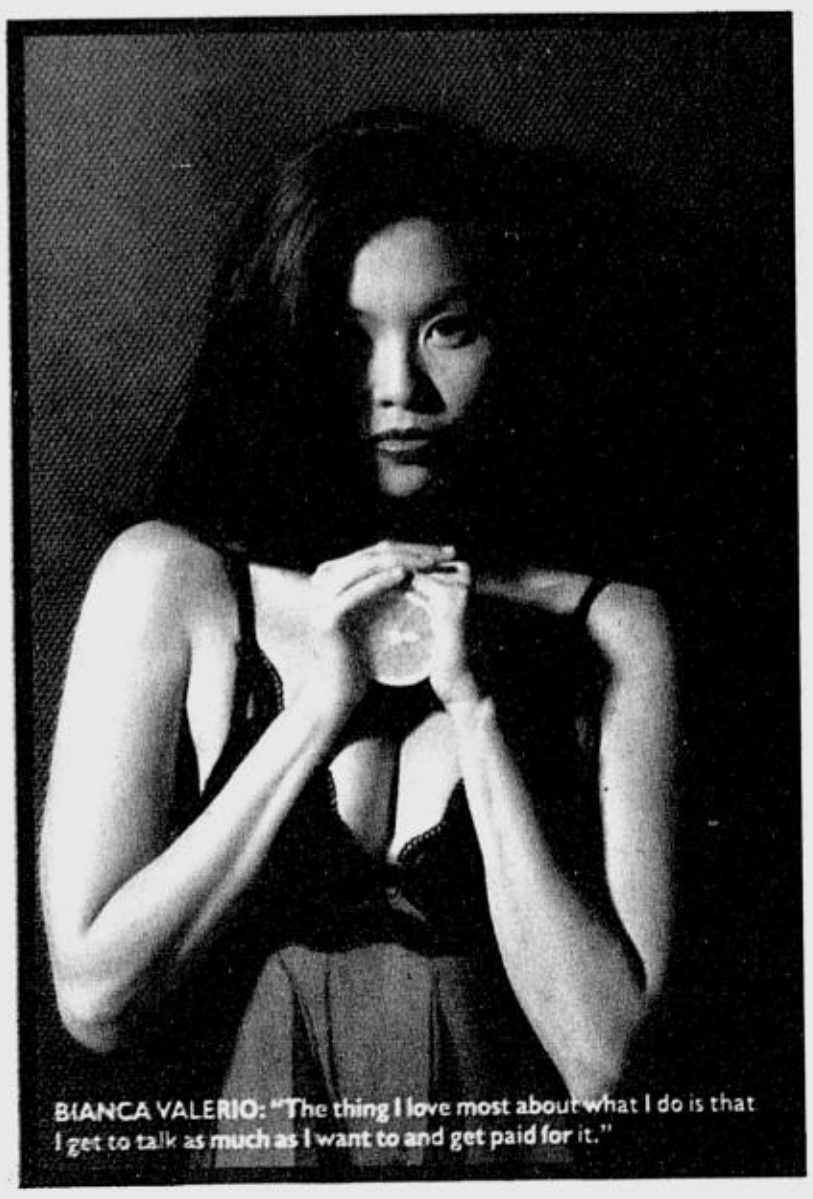
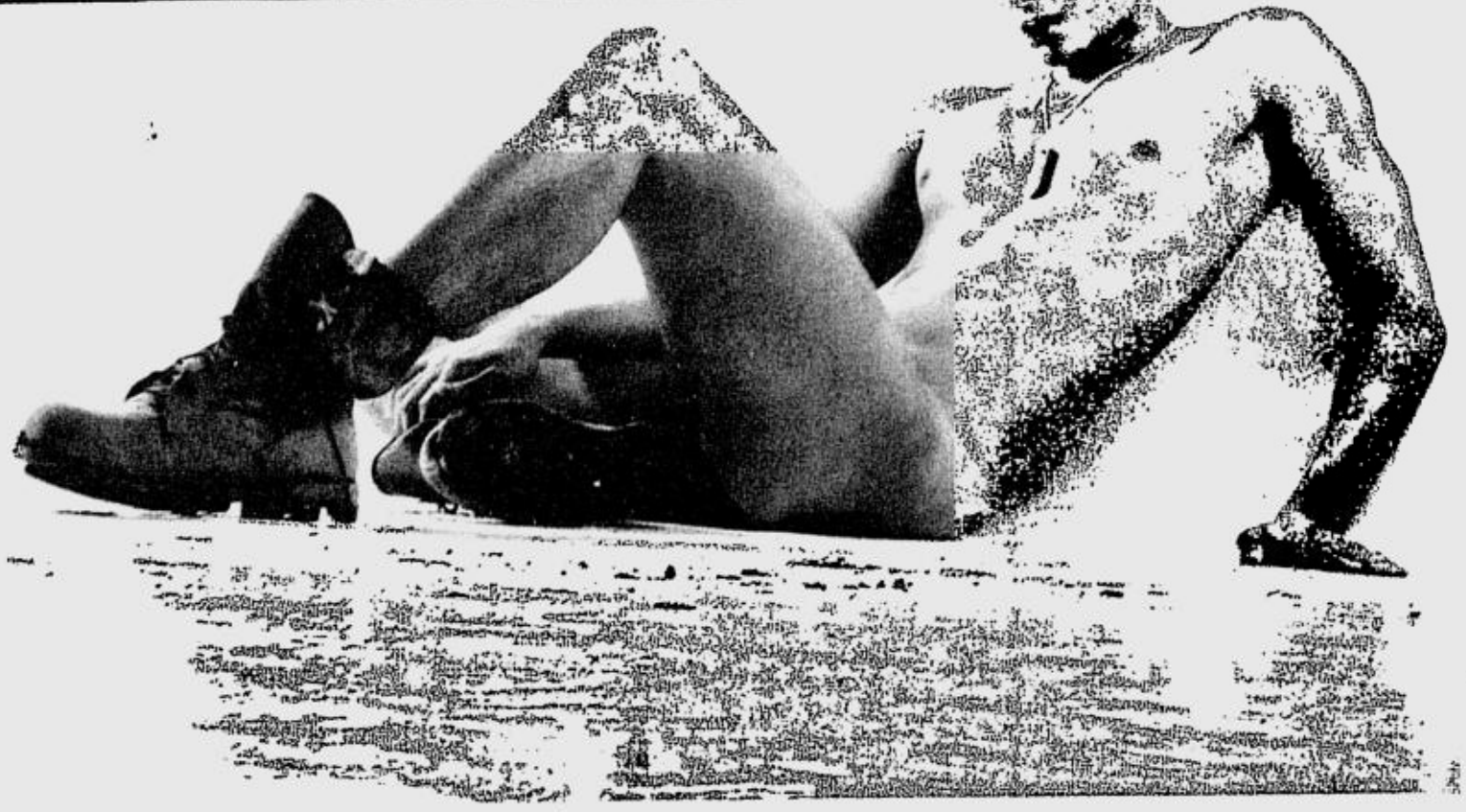
# Santa's Celebrity Strippers



BIANCA VALERIO: "The thing I love most about what I do is that I get to talk as much as I want to and get paid for it."



ALFRED VARGAS: Up for his booty call

From page E1

ly make anyone salivate. I predict these two images will be the most talked about this year. There's also furniture maven Ito Kish, comedian Vhong Navarro and Drew Arellano of "Wazzup! Wazzup!" among other surprise strippers.

Even before anybody in this town concocted their celebrity calendars, Metro, via its forward-thinking honcho Thelma San Juan was already making celebrities strip. "This year, we gave the photographers much freedom to develop their story," said associate editor Romina Urra-Gonzales, the woman in charge this year of the delicious disrobing.

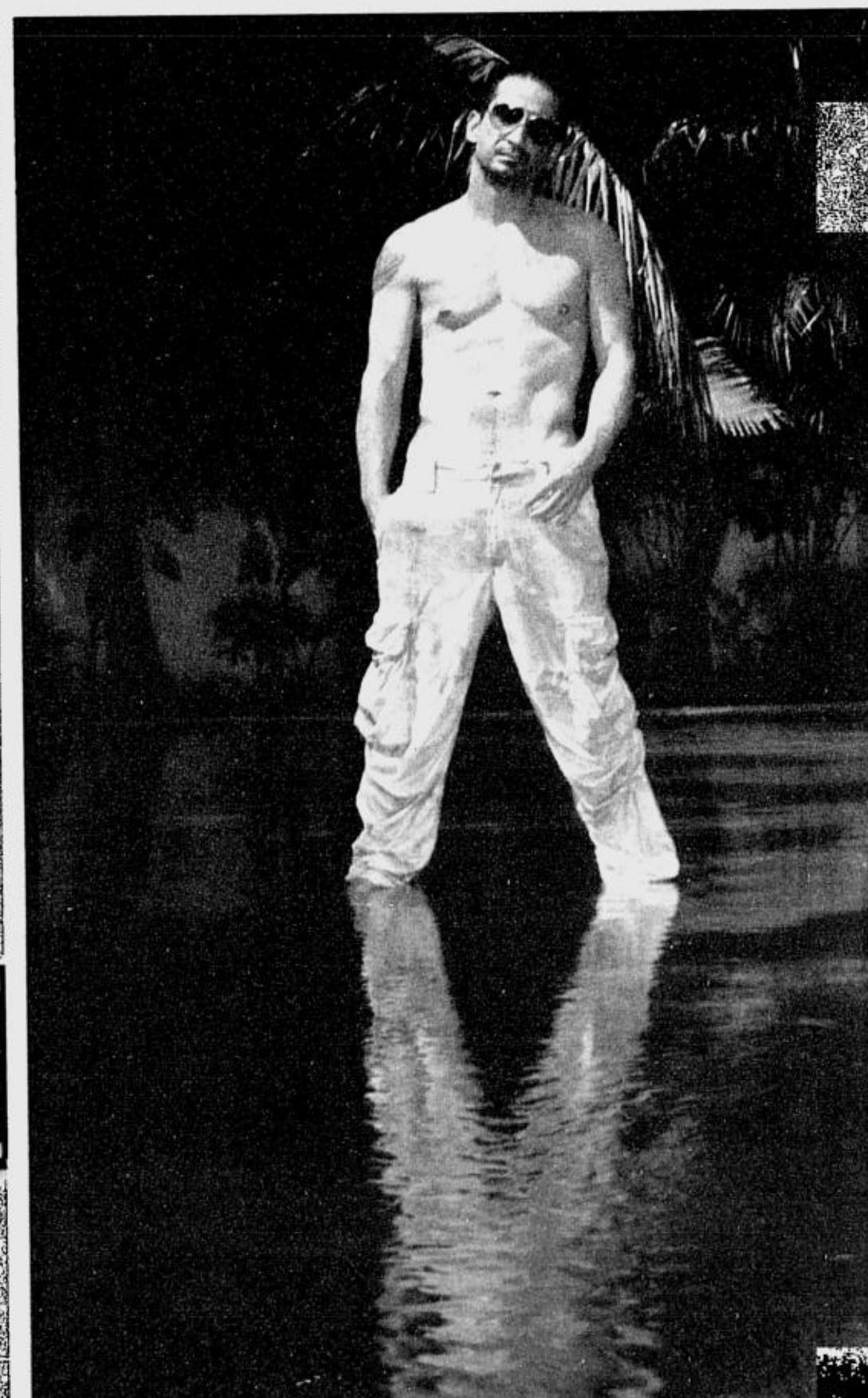
Ronnie revolved around an army theme while Tom played around with lingerie. "We wanted to prove that women do not have to be fully naked to be sexy," said Urra-Gonzales about the sexy female spread.

Why would the subjects agree, you may ask about those outside the show biz circle? They do not need the mileage nor the attention, but perhaps there's an exhibitionist lurking inside all of us. All it takes is the proper coaxing, a dash of class and a lot of tequila shots to get one naked. Hmmm, sounds like the perfect formula for seduction.

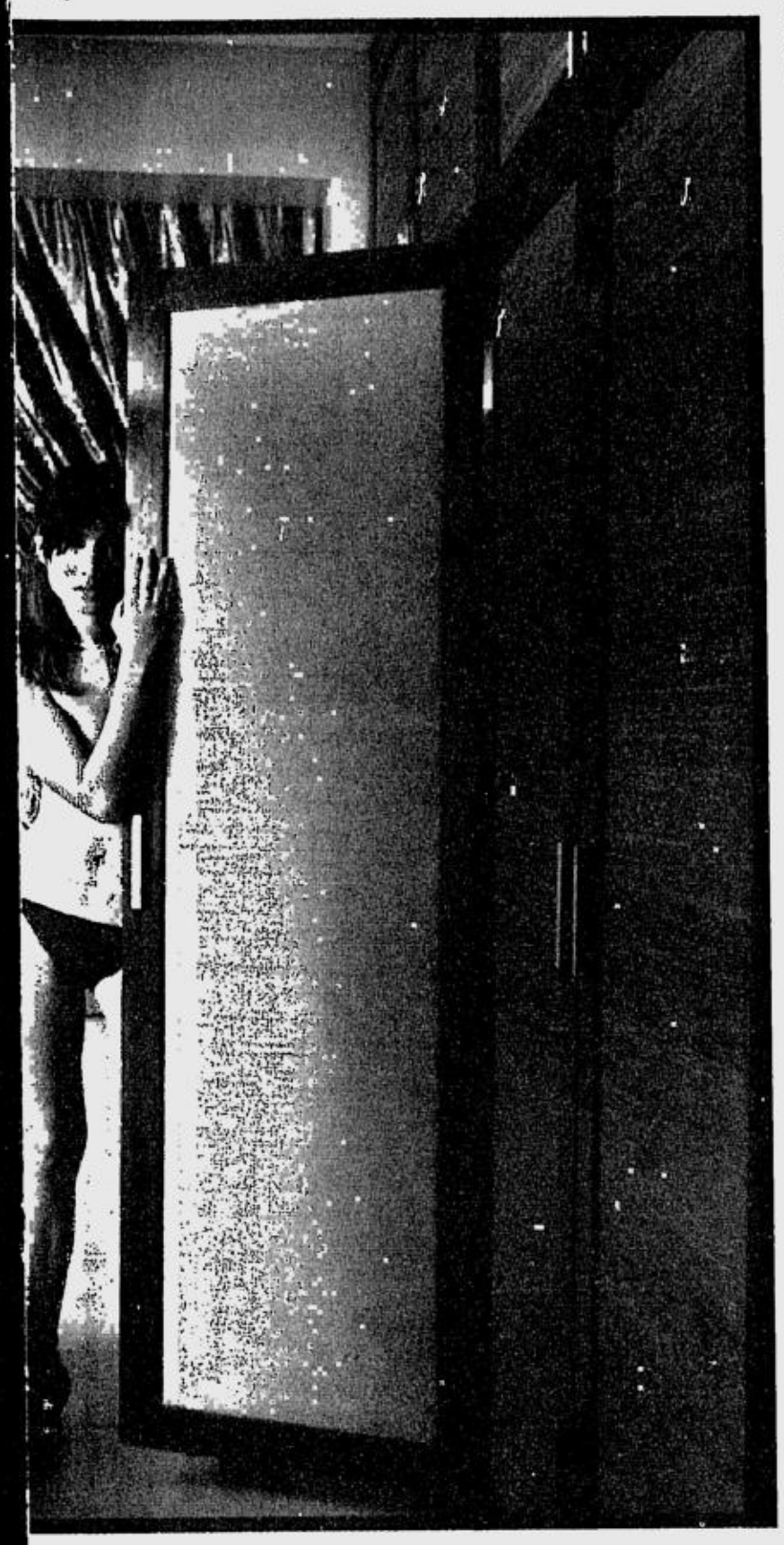
I did the calendar strip last year to rid myself of physical inhibitions (as if I had any). Filipinos in general have negative body images. I wanted to get rid of mine. People are used to seeing me fully clothed, so when I wore only a mirror ball to cover my balls, people were shocked. And I shunned all porn offers from Playgirl and the La Salle VCD sex scandal group.

And just like bungee jumping, there was a natural high in dealing with body issues. Try it, stand in front of a mirror and use your camera phone to capture your naked image and submit it to Metro. Who knows, they might put you in next year's batch.

PHOEMELA BARRANDA: "I'm excited, independent and have a better understanding of life"



JACQUES DUPASQUIER: "My best-ever outfit consisted of a ... birthday suit"



FOR IPE CRUZ AND JACQUES DUPASQUIER:
PHOTOS AND STYLING BY RONNIE SALVACION
IPE'S GROOMING BY ROBBIE PINERA
OF SHU UEMURA
JACQUES' GROOMING BY TOTO BAGAMASBAD

FOR BIANCA VALERIO:
PHOTO BY TOM EPPERSON
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY CHECHEL JOSON

FOR PHOEMELA BARRANDA:
PHOTO BY TOM EPPERSON
STYLING BY ROSARIO HERRERA
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY BOBBY CARLOS

FOR ALFRED VARGAS
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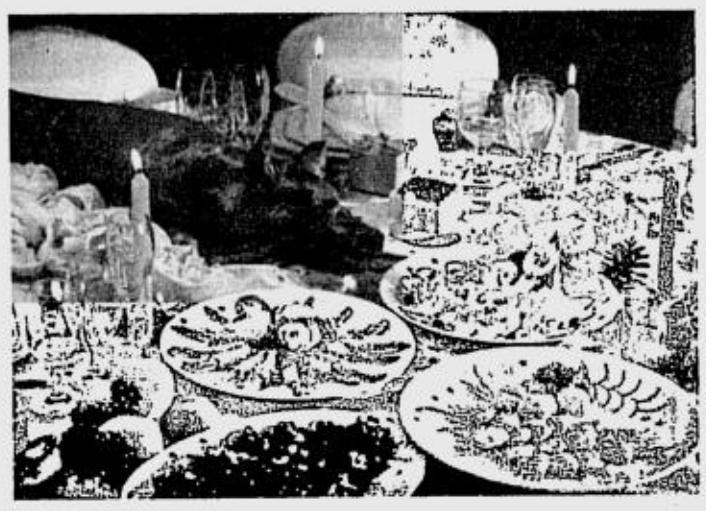

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# Happy Buddy Holidays! from SMART!

Christmas is the season of giving, letting those you hold dear know how much you appreciate them. It is in this spirit of giving back and saying thanks that SMART Buddy celebrates the Buddy Holidays! For continuously making SMART Buddy the number one pre-paid service, there are so many ways SMART Buddy wants to repay all of you, the SMART subscribers, this Christmas!

**Pasko ng mga Mega-Regalo**

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**Pasko ng Discounts**

Just visit any SMART Celebration booth at the malls nearest you and get huge discounts on all phonekits. Hundreds of thousands of premium items, as well as free load and calls, will also be given away. Speaking of discounts on phonekits, visit any SMART XPLOSIVE Deals booth in any SM Department Store for those unbelievable rates. You'll also get the chance to get premium items as well as one of 12 Nissan Urvans from SM in the grand raffle. How about capturing all those Christmas moments with the most affordable camera phone available? Well, that's exactly what the SMART Buddy SIEMENS MC60 is, and you'll only get it through SMART!

**Pasko ng mga Kids**

It has been said that Christmas is for children, and that's why SMART is offering "Pasko ng mga Kids!" For every purchase of any SMART Buddy phonekit, you win a free ride-all-you-can ticket at Star City! You can also join Pick-a-Prize for every SMART Buddy Super SIM 3 purchase or SIM swap. In celebration of 30 years of Hello Kitty, enjoy a Purr-fectly cute, Perfectly SMART Christmas with Gift Gate! Win Hello Kitty, Swatch, Lego, Russ, Benetton, or other Gift Gate goodies for every SMART Buddy Super SIM 3 purchase or SIM swap. For a rare and exotic collection of some protected flora and fauna, buy a SMART Buddy Phonekit and get two free tickets to the Malagos Gardens Amazing Bird Show.

All of these treats are SMART Buddy's own humble way of giving thanks to YOU. For it is you who have continued to support SMART Buddy and made it the unquestioned leader in wireless pre-paid. Without you, we are nothing. It truly is a happier holiday season with SMART Buddy, so from all of us to all of you, Merry Christmas and enjoy the Buddy Holidays!

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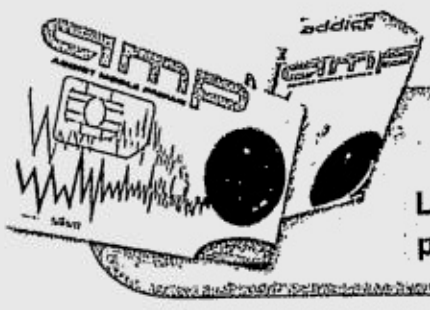
c) Activate the service by sending MMS ON to 333.
d) A confirmation message will be sent to you.
e) Send SET GPRS <phone model> (ex. SET GPRS N7610) to 211.
f) Upon receiving configuration settings, click SAVE (Nokia) or YES (Ericsson).
g) Activate the service sending GPRS ON to 333.
h) A confirmation message will be sent to you.

Note: Activation may take several minutes, you only need to configure your MMS/GPRS once.



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# Losing my religion

**Man about town**

Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

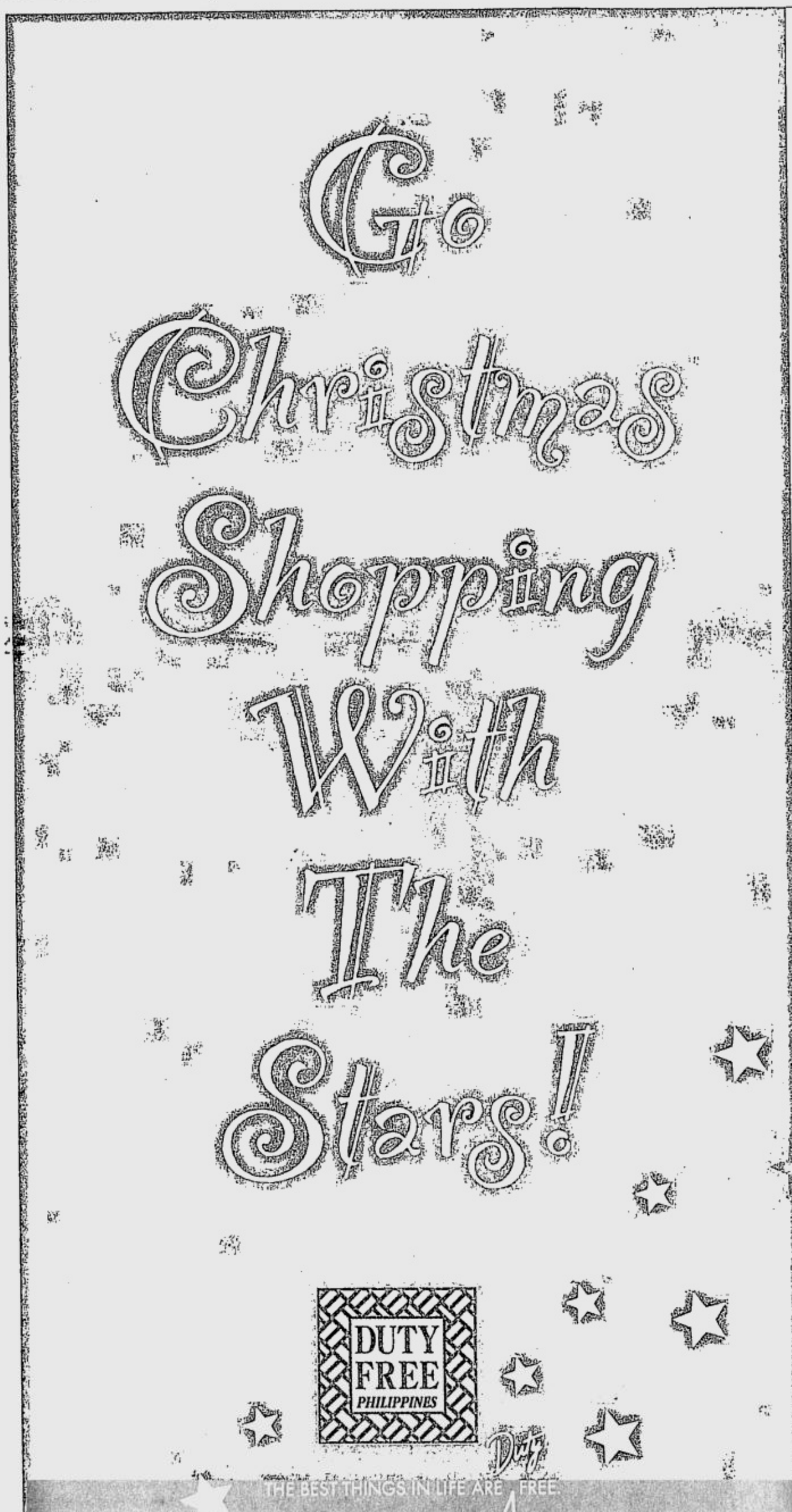
I'm losing faith in my religion. I read "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown about two months ago. At first I thought it was too incredible to be true, but then I started researching about the subject, and apparently, there is a lot of evidence supporting some of the theories in the book. My parish priest claims most of these are lies, or at least, unsubstantiated, but even he admits that he has not read "The Da Vinci Code." Is everything we have learned in catechism class about the life and death of Jesus false? My faith is shaken. Help me!

*For both faith and want of faith have destroyed men alike.*

–Hesiod

CENTURIES back, a venerable old man sat in lonely exile on the isle of Patmos with nothing but his Apocalyptic visions to keep him company. Apparitions of whores wading in blood, hallucinatory menagerie of hybrid beasts rising from the sea, angels blowing trumpets and breaking

LOSING/F3


**Concert Schedules:**

**December 8** 4PM

Acoustic Jive
Ferdie
2nd Call Band
Jenny Miller
Angeline Aguilar
Go Girls dancers
E-Male dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Janel

**December 11** 4PM

Karyll
D'Bodies
Minstrels band
1728 Acoustic band
Melissa Ricks
Raphael Martinez
Flawless Dancers
Hosts: Chocoleit & Ate Gay

**December 12** 4PM

Rachel Ann Go
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

**December 18** 4PM

Jed Madela & Prime Council
Mocha & Spin Band
Cherry Lou
Janel
Go Girls dancers
E-Male Dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Anton Diva

**December 19** 4PM

Sarah Geronimo
Mark Bautista
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

**December 22** 4PM

Sarah Geronimo
Mark Bautista
Chyna Ortaleza
Tyrone Perez
Free Male Dancers
Host: Dang Cruz

**December 23** 4PM

Christian Bautista
OJ Mariano
Oona R & B
Roxanne & Joross
Viva Hot Babes
Flawless Dancers
Hosts: Ate Gay & Anton Diva

Under RA 9174,
Balikbayans and OFWs arriving between Nov. 15 and Jan. 15 can shop within 30 days from the date of arrival.

# 40 and still standing!

Text and photos by Tim Yap

WHEN I grow up, I wanna be just like John Munro. For those not in the 'Bora' know, this guy is the king of Cocomangas—the place in Boracay where jam jars, cum shots (come, shots!) and blue jugs rule.

WHAT: John Munro just turned 40. Flew in some friends via Sea Air who stayed at Escondido resort nearby and made sure there were plenty of San Miguel Beer all throughout. A banner was placed atop the DJ's booth, "more birthdays and good lucks to come," from well meaning friends of the celebrator.

WHO: The rest of the tight Bora crew, Cocomangas lovers all, paid their respects to the king of nightlife this side of Station 1. His son Chico dutifully manned the bar, dishing out—what else? Jam Jars and that betrayingly yummy blue colored concoction, plus the uhhmmmmmm pizza that can make you come 15 times (to get more shots, that is) to the bar for drinks.

The dancefloor had the usual Bora mainstays—expats turned divemasters, overstaying Manila folks, ladies in leopard print and ladies who are not ladies and bodacious boatmen on a break—all of whom complete the party package that is Boracay nightlife.

WHAT ELSE: DJ Mars Miranda (and not Mars Del Rosario, as this writer has always put—sowee!), whose music is ruling the R&B clubs this side of the city, chose to jumpstart the night with his funky soul beats, making the beach bohemes raise the Cocomangas roof. Newly moved Bora resident slash DJ Reo Mendoza (who doubles as fire dancer), took off his shirt and spun, too. Hey Jude's DJ Monster made sure he also gave Mr. Munro his gift of music.

Most memorable moment was seeing John, after hours of making sure guests were entertained, sat down behind his throne—the bar—relaxed, as he watched his son groove happily on the dance floor like a dutiful king observing his crown prince.

And then he smiles.

HIP YOUNG BORACAYAUZ Bergen and Carolina Schoenenberger

SKIN FLICK Mariya Angeli and Reo Mendoza

YOGA SAILING Stacey and Stefano at Cocomangas

ISLAND ROYALTY Dayu and Claire Yap

40 SHOTS OF WISDOM John Munro—King of Cocomangas

TOD OF THE MOMENT Mirandle remember the name! Ecstatic Bliss found

LADIES NIGHT Mikee Gonzales at Coco

LEOPARD lady on the dance floor

ESCONDIDO ESTATE Grace and Chickadee Kael

DESIGN DIVING The Girls with Boyfriend Up

SEXY

Happy Birthday MUNRO

ER 13, 2004 GOOD LUCKS TO COME"

COMPLIMENTS BY RICKY AND COMPANY. The partying atop the DJ booth

MONSTER radio on the loose

HOTDOGGIN' THE GO. How boy-pretty this dogg!

STUDIOZ SEXY R&B DJ Guzman

DREADLOCK nation

COZYING GUY Hadley Pace and Jojo Tirol

EURO COFFEE Sabine Nadine Lay Chanel

MOTHER AND SON. Behind the bar of Cocomangas

MANGAS BEER BAR Still standing after 15... EST. 1989 THE JAM JAR A BORA institution lives on

# Losing my religion

From page F1

seals, a macabre quartet of cheerless Horsemen—John of Patmos saw the future through grim metaphors, inspired by God, or by some extremely potent mushrooms. And while most of these visions have come to pass, in one interpretation or the other, your religious constitution has been trampled upon, not by any of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse, but by The Da Vinci Code. I can hear cheering in hell.

Oh yes, my dear, Faith can be a fragile concept. The sedition of angels continues to this very day, but the battles are waged in subtle conflict, with less gore and more guile. Blame Time, that old double-oh-heaven agent of life, who likes your faith shaken, not stirred. Primitive civilizations left little allowance for debate; thus was Faith shaped—fortified in the furnace of social conformity and hammered straight by plain, old fear of ostracism and death. In the old days, if you raised your hand during catechism class, they flogged you in public, forced you to digest molten gold, or pulled your still-beating heart from your chest to the ooohs and aaahs of an adoring public. These bloody practices were considered good for you, reconciling your body and soul through massive amounts of lethal pain. Like Pilates.

Then strange abstractions such as democracy, globalization and free thought began to converge and collide, and suddenly, Faith was no longer a matter of mandatory assignment. It had become (gasp!) a personal concept of a (gasp!) subjective nature. Questions, once anathematized in the courts of the clergy, began to surface with a frequency, and a resilience to rote canon never witnessed before. Is there really a God? Is there really a devil? Which religion has got it right? Who are the five people I will meet in heaven? Is heaven cold, like Baguio? Should I bring a sweater? How much does the strawberry jam cost there?

Answers from the clerics, once considered unassailable, became less dogmatic for a variety of reasons. One, the clerics themselves, even of the same religious order, will on occasion disagree with one another, evidencing fallibility.

Two, they have been publicly proven as all too human, a few getting caught with their pants down, and a few ordering dynamite detonation in public places as a moral obligation.

Three, there are SO many denominations to choose from, each with its own nuances and flavors, each appealing or repellant to an individual depending on circumstance and condition.

Four, religious tolerance in modern times has allowed man to examine clinically, historically, and scientifically, articles of faith we once took for granted to be self-evident truths.

And five, Vanilla Ice became the first rapper to reach number one on the Billboard charts, a landmark argument against the existence of God. Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

But is this necessarily a bad thing? I think not. While an unwavering sense of religious belief is certainly noble to behold, it is only human to have our faith tested from time to time—by media, by everyday events, by our own internal conflicts.

War, famine, poverty, acts of malice, reality TV shows—these waves batter against the fortresses we have built on dry land. In your case, it's Dan Brown. But these should work to strengthen faith, not tear it down, by stripping it to its essence, by forcing the individual to question the core.

Anselm of Canterbury termed this as "faith seeking reason" (fides quaerens intellectum). Saladin, the great Moorish warrior considered more Christian than most Christians, welcomed the serious inquiry of Islam in order to strengthen his faith. People who refuse to indulge religious questions or subject their faith to scrutiny... well, let's just say that you'll never know how strong a rope is until you've pulled at it from both ends.

Let's talk about "The Da Vinci Code." It's 450 pages of best-selling pop, that mixes adventure, espionage, history, religion, art and conspiracy theory into a vague amalgam of fiction and fact. It has generated controversy, uproar and millions of dollars for its author. It is loved as a fantastic marriage of imagination and literature. It is detested as trashy reading culled from other works and fit for those who never graduated from high school (actual quote). But most importantly, it is JUST a book. And while I agree that certain pieces of art or literature are moving enough to force one into introspection, if Dan Brown or Paolo Coelho or James Redfield ever tested MY faith, I'd have to ask myself if it was a faith worth having in the first place.

The faith that stands on authority is not faith, so waxes Ralph Waldo Emerson. I think he means the authority vested in transient things, like books, or people, or propaganda. For example, if archeologists unearth evidence that there were actually 16 apostles at the Last Supper, would it be troubling because the Bible only stated 12? If proof were discovered that Siddharta Gautama sat under a coconut tree instead of a fig tree, would this make him any less Enlightened?

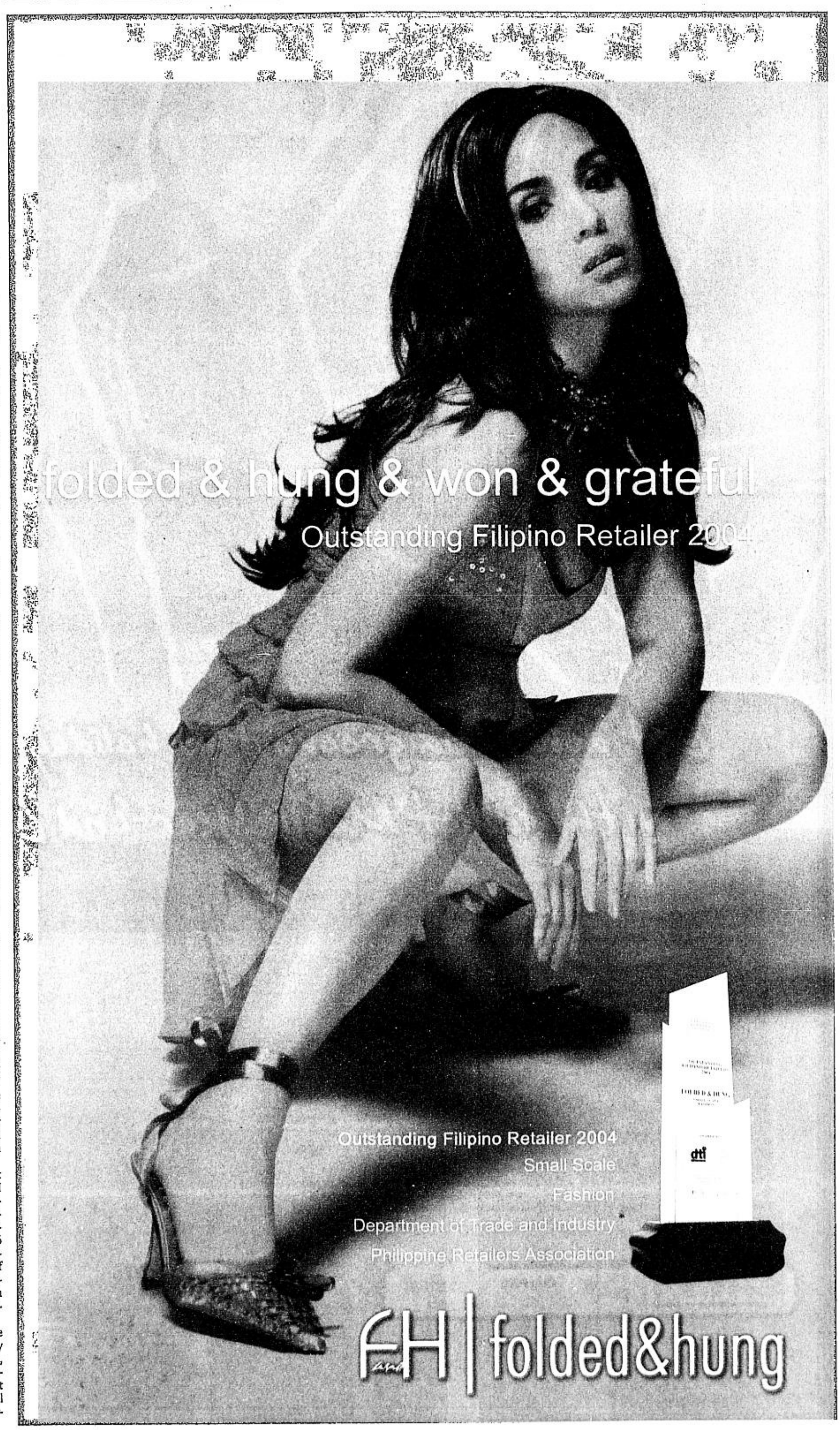
We root our faith on the substance of these stories, not the wording. We believe not solely because someone or something instructed us, but because we are reassured by our experiences. Ashton Kutcher is a terrible actor, not because a critic wrote so, but because I feel this as a universal truth, echoing in the marrow of his movies, reverberating across the tectonic plates of popular media, and creeping up Demi Moore's things.

Instead, forage for spiritual sustenance in the considerable undergrowth of the daily grind. While sacred texts and pastors provide guidance and the occasional faith lift, religious conviction should always be sustained by what we experience everyday: random acts of kindness from strangers, stories of taxi drivers returning abandoned wads of cash, students volunteering to mentor their less fortunate counterparts, you know what I mean? The parable of the Good Samaritan is a great repeater for Sunday mornings, but the rest of the week should be filled with originals.

The one thing I can assume with some accuracy is that if "The Da Vinci Code" shook your faith, my friend, you have got to get out of your house and start experiencing a lot more in life. Read more, travel more, observe more, listen more. Absorb material from different cultures and religions other than your own. Great quote from St. Augustine: "The world is a book, and they who have not traveled have read but one page." The erudite saint refers not specifically to international adventure, but to voyages beyond our familiarity, outside our comfort zones.

Faith can move mountains, but you have to keep pushing while you're praying. Like anything worth keeping in life, you've got to work for it to make it work for you. You have to allow it to be tested, to be questioned, to be insulted, to be dissected, and to be sacrificed on the altar of public scrutiny. Such conditions can only make it stronger and more potent. A conviction refreshed and reinvigorated, ready and willing to be challenged by much steeper a faith hill than Dan Brown fiction. Like Vanilla Ice making a comeback.

*E-mail author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com*



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| DECEMBER 21: Tuesday | VBAR with DJ Johnny Versa |
| DECEMBER 22: Wednesday | New York Hiphop Party Series with DJ Get Live and DJ Scratch Mark from New York at WhereElse in Makati |
| DECEMBER 28: Tuesday | VBAR with DJ Johnny Versa<br>Absinth with DJ Steve Mills |
| DECEMBER 29: Wednesday | Temple Bar with DJ Steve Mills |
| DECEMBER 30: Thursday | Boracay Gold Crowne with DJ Johnny Versa in Boracay |
| DECEMBER 31: Friday | VBAR with DJ Steve Mills<br>Temple Bar with DJ Johnny Versa |

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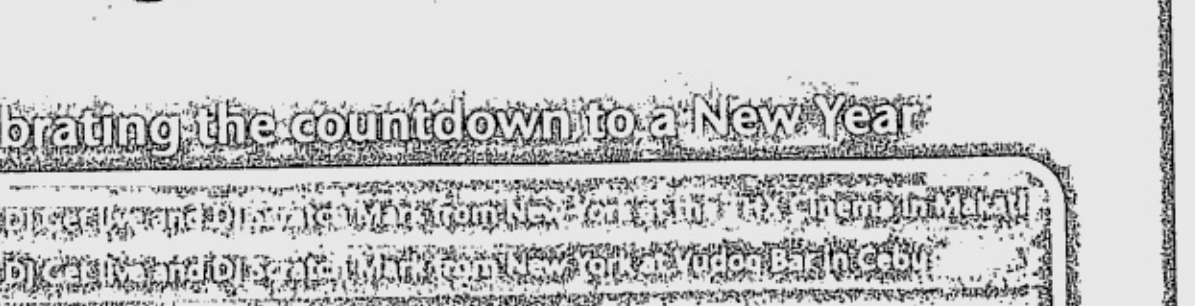

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**Starring Richard Gutierrez in "Burlesk King Ngayon"**

After playing a flying superhero slash bird in Mulawin, the next sensible move for this adolescent star is to shock the audience. And what better way than to star in a revealing proverbial Pinoy flick? Cue sensual music.

# Surreel roles . . .

By James Gabrillo

A BUNDLE of stars have made truly dense preferences when it comes to selecting film roles that either range from absolutely flat or just barely asinine.

But who can blame them?

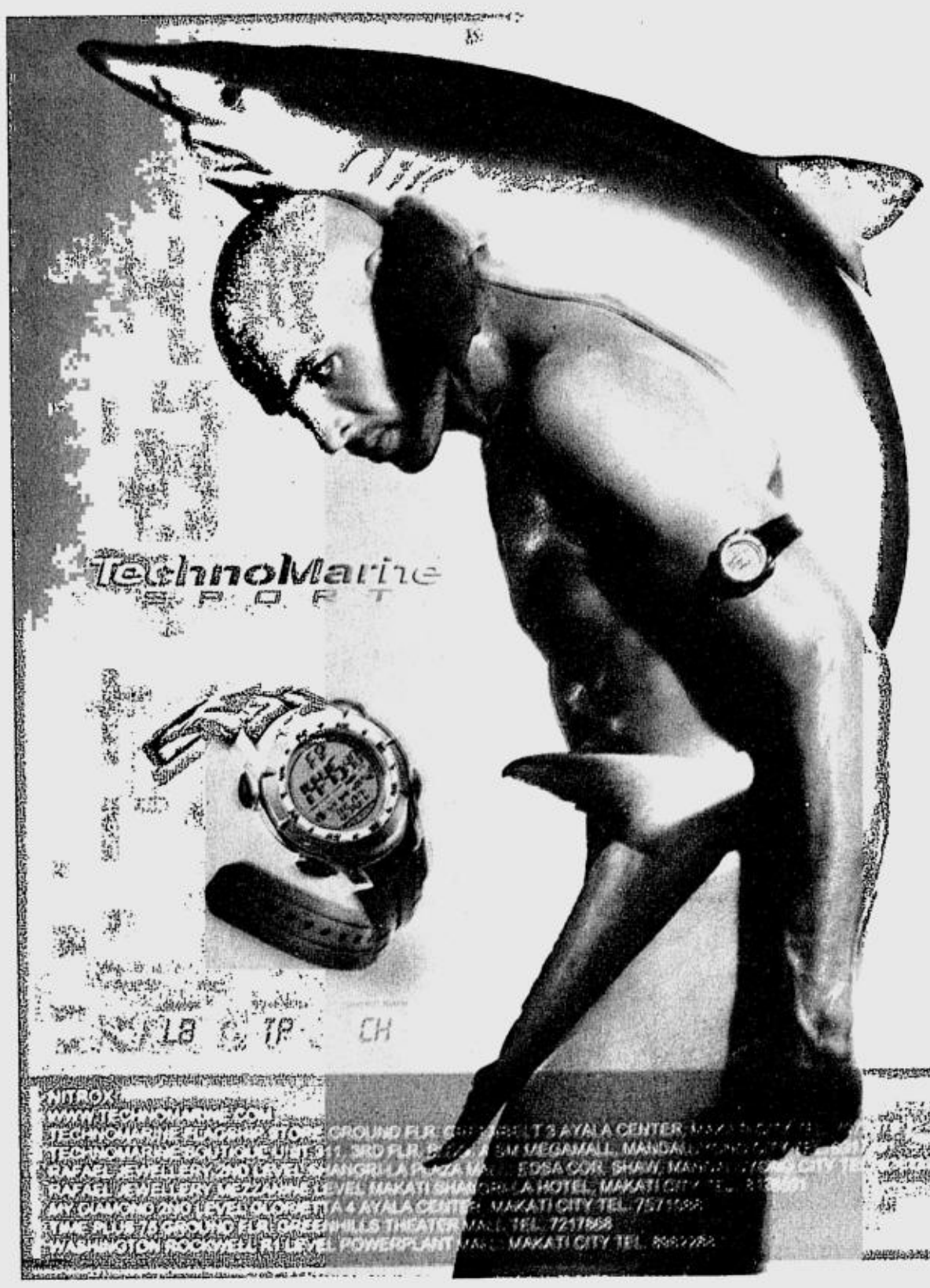
There's actually not a great deal to pick from, particularly these days when the discharging of Pinoy pictures is done thinly. Time and again, it is the gaffe of the mother studios which persevere on making their treaty-bound stars play characters they would never haul off no matter how many workshops they attend.

So we thought about big-screen roles that are a slash above the rest—those that stun and flabbergast and those that would broaden the artist's acting aptitude to its extreme prospective.

**Starring Jolina Magdangal in "Ang Bagong Coke Agcaoili"**

Jolens, legendary for manipulating the hairstyles and fashion selections of little girls, stars as Coke Agcaoili, a forgotten sexy star from the '70s, in a musical about a woman's mêlée with drugs and misery subsequent to her disastrous show biz vocation and then gets back into the headlines after winning the lottery

SURPRISE/ G2

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Rustan Cebu
Dec 17 - 22, 10am-10pm
Dec 24, 10am-10pm

### Starring Judy Ann Santos in "Lualhati Sa Ina"

This is the life story of celebrated Pinay writer Lualhati Bautista ("Dekada '70" and "Bata Bata, Pa'no Ka Gi-nawa?") who was last seen walking out of an awards ceremony after not winning the Best Screenplay award. Juday, an awesome associate of the Telenovela Majesty, plays a woman who struggles as an artist, as a warrior of woman's rights and as the protector of her offspring.

### Starring Alessandra de Rossi in "Gagay: Prinsesa ng Brownout Part II"

After the triumph of the first "Gagay" movie starring Geli de Belen in the late '90s, it is just right to remake the uproarious story of a provincial lass who catapults into affluence after spawning a charcoal-powered generator. Just who did the doctor order for the part? Alessandra, who won over local and international critics for her piece in Gil Portes' dramatic film "Mga Munting Tinig."

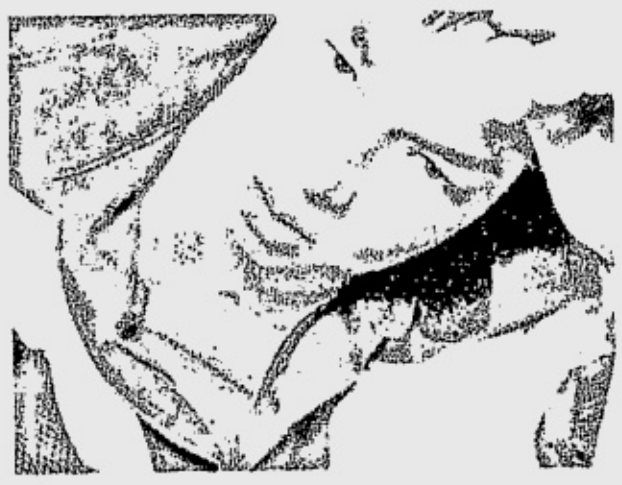
### Starring Cherrie Gil in "Cherry Hill"

Startling veteran *kontrabida* Cherrie jolts back in the giant-screen edition of the story of Pinoy myth pop idol Maria Makiling. This time, she gets to bowl her immeasurable acting to hikers who step on her—well, you know. Cue really sensual music.

# Surreel roles...

### Starring Mahal and Mura in "Twin Popsies"

Mahal is a toddler in a farm who becomes the subject of a cloning experiment. After the triumph of the procedure, Mahal uncovers a spiritual bond with her genetic copy, to be played by Mura. While cavorting in the fields, both get seized by aliens from planet Mercury. This sci-fi movie shall embark upon the effects of scientific exploits in the inhabitants of the solar system. Or not.



### Starring John Lapus in "Hey Jude"

After bombarding our tubes with his candid gay quirks and recently playing a beauty queen in the stage adaptation of Joey Gosiengfiao's spectacular "Temptation Island," John shall play a rock superstar in the '60s who gets so fixated with status and sex that he disregards all and sundry. In the concluding part of the motion picture, he gets contaminated with AIDS.

**THE MUPPETS RETURN.** Be afraid, be very afraid... of Kermit and Miss Piggy's steamy love scene.

**CHUCKIE'S ANGELS.** Natalie, Dylan and Alex come in boxes and they've got their eyes set on their first victim—Bosley.

**AMERICAN BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.** She's hairy... really hairy.

**THE MASK OF ZORRO.** Zmokin'!!!

**ALONG CAME VAN HELSING.** Her boyfriend sucks. Literally.

# ...and im-poster movies

By Albert Pili and Tals Diaz

Chuckie's cheese... Princess' heels on a Predator's eye... mummified Muppets ... and a hairy American Beauty...
This page shows a celluloid mishmash that proves, indeed, Mercury is in retrograde



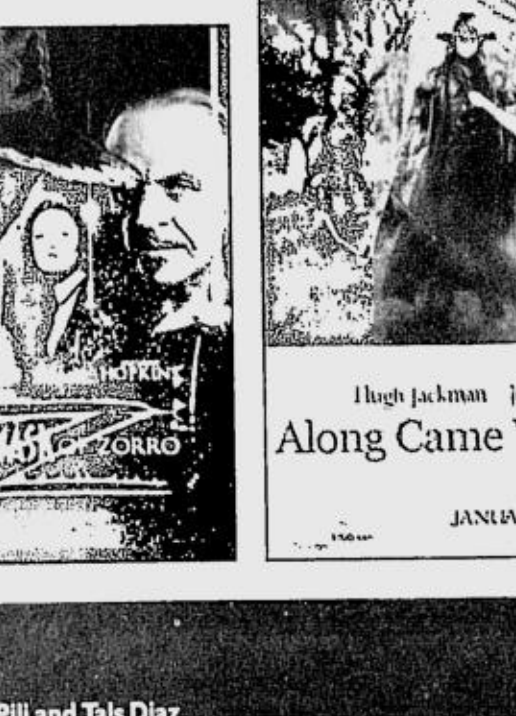

**SEED OF SHREK.** Princess Fiona gives birth to a mini-ogre with schizophrenic tendencies.




**I, MONSTER.** Sulley fights against other monsters who are trying to take over the world.

**SCOOBY FOREVER.** Zoinks! Jinkies! This caped canine likes tight leather and British butlers.

**THE TOYMINATOR.** Woody wants to rule the world. Move over, Buzz Lightyear.




**TROY STORY.** Brad, Eric and Orlando—boytoys we'd love to play with.



**LEGALLY BLADE** she's deadly. She

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**Starring Jericho Rosales in "Vote For Mwah"**

He's done the leading man role in "Pangako Sa 'Yo," has taken off his shirt for his stint with "The Hunks" and has played antihero in "Santa-Santita." What's next? Echo shall play a gay senator who decides to acquire a sex transplant and eventually turns into the focus of the nation's debates.

**Starring Aiza Seguerra in "Paglalakbay sa Purgatoryong Pink"**

The precious stone from the fêted noontime show Eat Bulaga shall star as a minor who commits suicide after being singled out and eternally bullied in high school by a bouquet of cheerleaders. In her expedition to "Purgatory," she is bemused to see that the lair is inhabited by perky pixies and imps.

**Starring Sandara Park in "Chop-Chop Lady 2005: Korean Barbecue"**

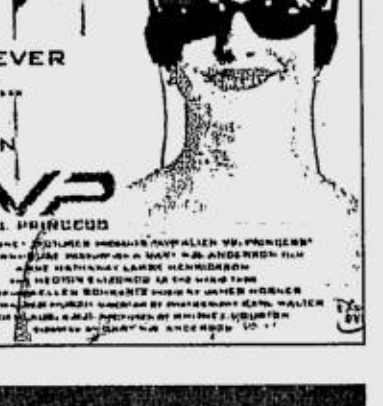
The Korean-blooded charmer from "Star Circle Quest" shall pursue the lane of Kris Aquino, who appeared in a string of Carlo Caparas slaughter movies and propelled into eminence through screaming and moaning.

**Starring Rosanna Roces and Jennylyn Mercado in "Love"**

'90s bold star bombshell Osang stars in her riposte movie subsequent to all the hullabaloo as a 70-year-old blind lesbian who develops affection for her infantile caregiver played by Jennylyn, the grand winner of the talent show "Starstruck."

**THE ALIEN VS THE PRINCESS.** Watch Princess Mia throw her magic stilettos at the fashion-challenged alien.

. She's tough, loves pink.




**ABOUT A HELL BOY.** Hugh Grant is stalked by a young demon who likes watching TV.

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addict

# Meeting the man behind the music

By Jojo T. Nones
Photos by Nick Cruz

FOR those who venerate electronic music (like I do), international DJ, producer, and composer Paul van Dyk needs no introduction. For legions of fans—including mammoth crowds that gather at Bigfish events at the NBC Tent or elsewhere—the man that brought the world "For An Angel" is revered as a god, a leader in a market that revolves heavily around him and his sets.

At the 47th Annual Grammy Awards rites to be held on Feb. 13 next year, Paul van Dyk's "Reflections" competes with albums by Basement Jaxx, The Crystal Method, Paul Oakenfold, and The Prodigy for the Best Electronic/Dance Album award. This marks a milestone in van Dyk's career, being one of the first five artists to be nominated in a field that is only being recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for the first time this year. This clearly establishes van Dyk as one of the esteemed leaders of this genre.

Van Dyk's fourth album, "Reflections"—hailed by many critics as deeper and more insightful than his previous endeavors—features the electronic dance hit "Nothing but You," a huge hit in clubs around Europe, America, and Asia; "Time of Our Lives," the soundtrack for the current HBO/Cine

MEETING/ H2

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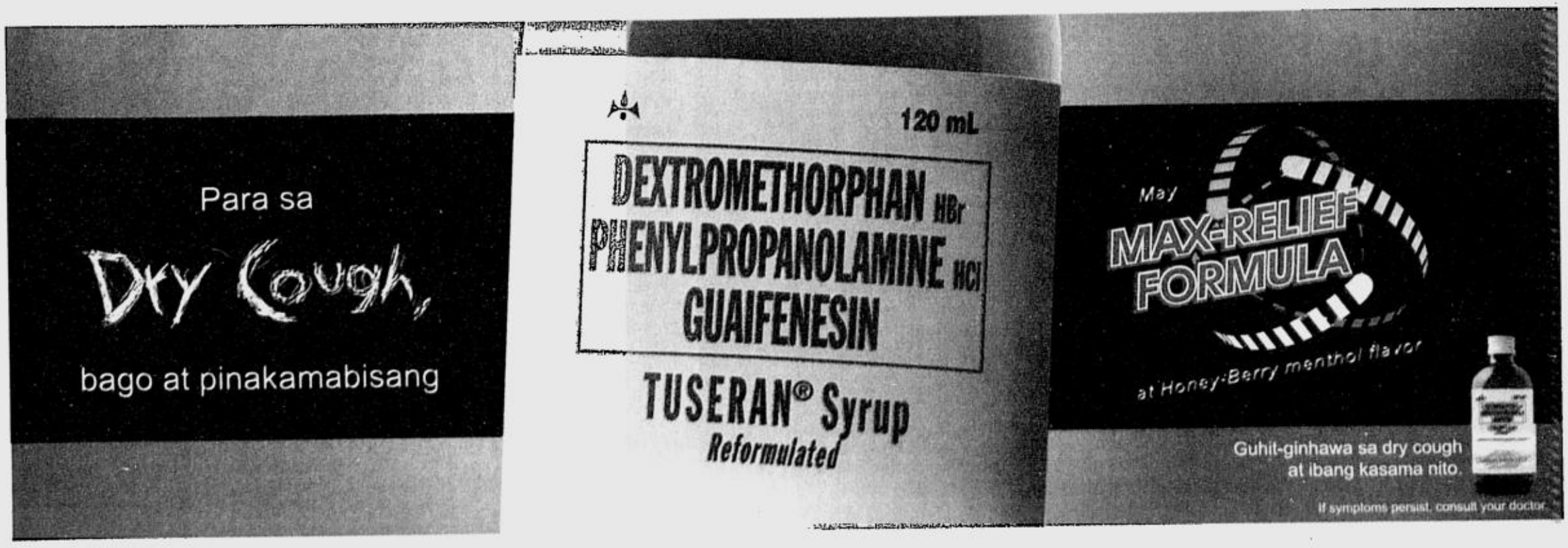

# Confession of a PVD addict

By Juliet Tan

MY FAVORITE DJ has come to town again. And as usual, he did not disappoint.

Paul Van Dyk has become a globetrotting celebrity DJ from the time I discovered his dusty CD in my friend's apartment in Hurghada, Egypt, way back in 1995. I had gone to visit a friend who worked at this diving paradise by the Red Sea, and for a non-diver like me, what was there to do?

So, I dug up my friend's old CDs and listened to them as I passed my days, gazing at the sand dunes across our flat, and fell in love with Seven Ways, PVD's second album.

His music is melodious, creative, innovative, uplifting, and global. It made your whole body, not just your feet, want to dance. He has some hard beats, but most cuts were music to put you in a trance, a state of happiness with motion, not a suspended moment where everything stops. Even his breaks, where the beats stop and it's just the melody, left me stupefied.

I bugged my German friend for information on van Dyk. In 1996, he was already a star in Germany, and true enough, while watching Deutschewelle, I saw an interview of him. They talked about his roots, (he's an East Berliner, growing up in a communist environment!), how he started (played in a small club called Turbine in Glogauer Street in West Berlin every Friday for an event called Dubmission), to his personal taste in music. This guy listens to classical music in the morning upon waking up.

From this obscure club, he graduated to the big time, playing in Tresor in 1991, where the techno lords like Derek Mae and Sven Vath were the main stars. Tresor is a club for hard house and techno, and is not for the fainthearted.

The basement where they play the really hard stuff is just about 7 feet in vertical clearance that's filled with thick fog one can hardly see even one's own hand. It's only the music, hard thumping next to your heart, and nothing more. One melts into non-existence. That's what it felt like. I was the only girl among the guys, jumping up and down to the beat. But that's another story.

On my first trip to Germany in January of 1997, Tresor and E-werk were the must go clubs in Berlin, which is the happening place in Germany for clubbers like me. E-werk was the more mainstream one, which was rumored to be owned by Paul Van Dyk.

There are conflicting versions, though. Some say he owned it, and some say he was just close to the owners. Anyway, for me, I didn't care if it was commercial, I wanted to go because my idol, PVD, was playing.

Berlin has a huge underground club scene, many clubs do not even have signs outside. It's only because my friend worked there for two years, hence he knew the places to go, and what signs to look out for as evidence that there is a party going on, maybe in an abandoned subway station, or an old big public toilet. Berlin is famous for that kind of thing, the more outrageous the party site, the better it was for the party. Just like the opening scene of Blade 1 where they had the party at a slaughterhouse.

MOTION AT THE TENT. Paul Van Dyk rocks Manila

Forgive me for rambling about Berlin and its party scene, but I cannot just dissociate Paul Van Dyk from Berlin....and so we waited 30 minutes in line to get in E-werk, which was an old electric plant. It was -12 degrees outside, at 3 a.m., and it was my first frigging winter! When we finally got in, the wait and cold were all worth it. It remains in my memory, despite Ibiza and London, to this day, the best club I've been into. There,

PVD was the king of trance, and his slot was 6 am. I could see the most fashionable and

people from different style tribes and subcultures-the Goths, the leather SM gang, the techno clubbers in their forever Adidas stripes, the beautiful glamorous wannabes, hanging out by the lounges, waiting for PVD's session. I know enough German to know what they were talking about.

So I waited with the rest of them, even if I had hardly slept throughout my first European party tour of Paris-Duesseldorf-Berlin. With so much to see and to experience, it was all exhilarating for me to feel tired. And then, he was there on board already. Unassuming, cool, reserved, I could feel the shyness coming through even if he was playing to his crowd.

When Manila was starting to bring in foreign DJs, I pestered my organizer friends to bring Paul Van Dyk in. And he finally came the first time in 1999, on a Thursday night, playing at the closed Fashion Café. Manila still had not heard of him much, and that being a weeknight, the place was not packed. The crowd was just enough, and my friends were asking me who this DJ was, if he was good. By the end of the night, PVD

definitely had won fans in Manila.

My second time to see him play was in Singapore in 2000. Not in Zouk, which usually brings in the big DJs to Singapore. It was an independent producer, Zouk had become too small a venue for PVD. This time, I had to line up for nearly an hour, with

no chance in sight to get in. People with pre-sold tickets were being given the priority to enter, and since the venue was already too full, we had to wait when there was space inside. That was when they could start selling tickets, and I was like the 100th in line. I was nearly crying when this girl came up to me, recognizing me from my Out-of-the-Box feature for Asian MTV years ago (!), and gave me their extra tickets. After such a trying time to

CONFESSION/H3

# Meeting the man behind the music

From page H1

max trailer; and "Connected," the TV commercial jingle for the world-wide campaign on the Motorola C-350 cellphone, that also featured van Dyk as endorser.

## "America's Favorite DJ"

Throughout this year, van Dyk has helped the "Rock the Vote" campaign by encouraging his fans to vote in this year's election. During this tour, van Dyk performed in front of over 200,000 people across 36 tour events. It's the first time an electronic dance artist has been selected for a "Rock the Vote" tour.

Earlier this year, van Dyk was voted "America's Favorite DJ" by BPM Magazine and was the big winner at the 2004 Dancestar Awards, taking home three awards: Best International DJ, Best Event ("PVD at Central Park Summer Stage"), and Best Music in a Commercial ("Connected" for Motorola). He also won the Mexican Oscar in March 2004 for best original soundtrack for his music in the film "Zurdo."

With so much accolade in the field of electronic dance music, one would assume that van Dyk grew listening to the genre, soaked in the pulsating trance rhythms of ubiquitous dance parties around Europe and Berlin, his hometown. But surprisingly, this crafty East German musician never got to attend even just one rave during his youth. Instead, he sought inspiration solely from the sounds he would hear from the radio.

With time, he began to assemble mix tapes of songs for friends and before he knew it, he was already being asked to spin and ultimately compose electronic ditties.

Over the years, van Dyk has quickly positioned himself as one of the most sought after DJs in the world, going on to produce countless tracks that have become undeniable mainstays on the set lists of other top international DJs.

## Interview with a god

I describe van Dyk's music as addictive ear candy, and I have been a fan, long before his first visit to Manila years back. Last Dec. 9's huge Bigfish rave at the NBC Tent was van Dyk's third Manila outing, and is arguably his biggest Pinoy crowd to date.

In Manila and elsewhere in the world, van Dyk is a god of the club scene, a superstar deity, unreachable, almost intangible. So, I got so excited upon learning that I would interview him for Super! after his show on Dec. 9.

At exactly 12 midnight (thanks to Domini Primero of Bigfish and his head of security Ian Benedicto), I finally got to meet my idol. He was actually a pleasure to interview, quite meek and always on-hand with a smile. I got to ask him a few questions, along with GP Reyes, Ana Kalaw, and a couple of other writers and photographers who were as eager to do an interview with a god.

What particular hybrid sound appeals to you right now? Where do you place yourself?

Electronic music should have no boundaries. Trance, house, whatever you call it, they're all danceable. If they make you dance, then that's it.

How do you feel about your Grammy nomination and the fact that electronic/dance music is finally being recognized as a category?

I think it's a big achievement for electronic/dance musicians everywhere. It's a great feeling when they put you on top of everyone else.

How do you feel about being voted as "America's Favorite DJ" by BMP Magazine?

It's a real poll and I feel really good about it. I think it's something to be proud of.

You were compared to Moby in an article. It said you were the Moby of Europe. How do you feel about it?

We actually have different kinds of music but I've known Richie for a long time and it's all good.

Where do you think electronic music is heading?

It's becoming bigger, more popular, more global. I don't think electronic music is decreasing. It's still the most popular form of music in the world.

Hiphop is everywhere nowadays. How do you feel about it?

I enjoy hiphop. If it's good hiphop, then it's all good. It's all about music.

What do you listen to when you're not spinning?

I like Placebo and Linkin Park.

What advice can you give to DJs who want to be like yourself?

They have to know that it's really hard work. But it's also fun. The key is to come across as someone who likes the music. Always be careful.

What do you attend to when you're not doing work?

My wife, family, and dogs.

What's your favorite food?

My wife Natasha's salad and potatoes.

What's your luxury?

Two beagles!

What's your Christmas wish?

Not much... (Then winks.)

What cologne are you wearing right now?

Gucci.

Your favorite designer?

Prada.

This is your third time in Manila. What's about the Philippines do you love the most?

It's such a great place! I've always felt that it's sort of misplaced within the Asian region. Everything here is different. You have a different vibe, a different language sound—you even look different! The crowd response here is terrific!

Will you come back for another rave?

Definitely.

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**Needed:**

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- Mineral water
- Sugar
- Iodized salt
- Rice

*Non-Food:*
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- Kitchen utensils
- Laundry and bath soap
- Mosquito nets
- Slippers
- Clothes
- Candles, matches, flashlight
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# A Super! Christmas

Text by Pam Pastor; Artwork by Raymond Ontoy

**TO CALL these past days strange is an understatement.**

**We've faced the wrath of nature, we've said goodbye to special people, we've witnessed pain and anger at their truest forms.**

**Surviving this world is a challenge - and the struggle seems even tougher now, making it hard to believe that Christmas is just a week away.**

**Just like the rest of us, the celebrities you see on these pages have ridden the universe's giant roller coaster. There are just some things that no amount of fame or money can help us escape.**

**But the people around us can make the battle easier, if we can only learn to let them in a little more.**

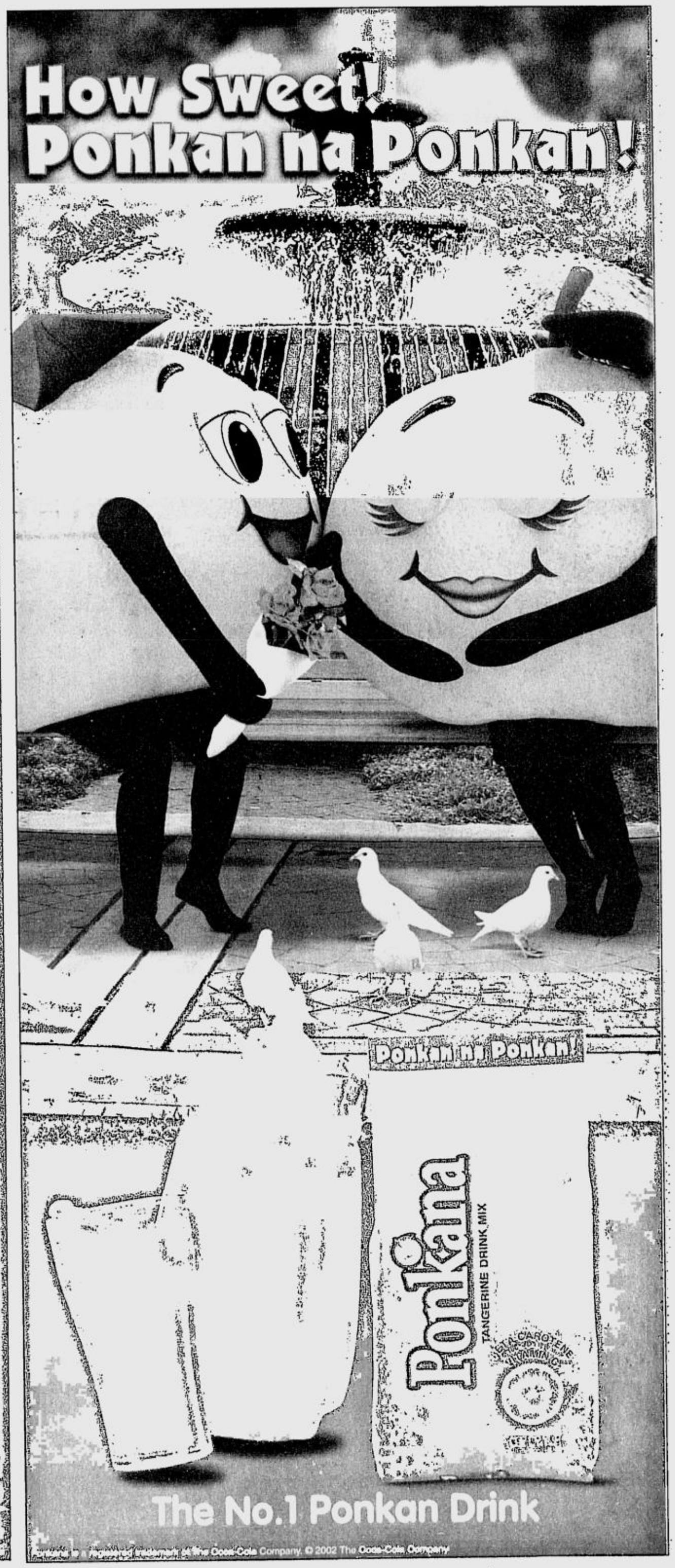
**The Muppets said in their Christmas special, "Life is made up of meetings and partings."**

**But what really counts is what happens between those hellos and goodbyes.**

**So in the seven-day countdown before Christmas, shower your loved ones with as much affection as you can—hug them, kiss them, clip the GCs from our pages and give it to them, do a quick dance, watch a movie with them, create memories and erase bad ones.**

**Have a ball, have a blast, have a Super! Christmas.**

THE SUPER! family in full color




## Confession of a PVD addict

From page H2

get-in, PVD was a bit disappointing that year. His music had become commercialized...he had gotten confused, I would say, on what type of mixing he would do that night in Singapore. My friend and I left disappointed.

His next stint in Manila was at the Casino Filipino multi-purpose hall in Paranaque. The size of the crowd was unbelievable ! PVD had come out with music videos aired on Asian MTV, and his brand of trance techno has converted a lot of Filipinos. This was the best rave party I have seen in Manila, the ambiance, the crowd, nearly a thousand, were upbeat, and most of all, Paul Van Dyk played good. He played till 4 a.m. where he would immediately be whisked off to the airport, flying off to another city.

Last Thursday was his fourth time to Manila. I missed the third time owing to an accident. I did not expect the turnout to be that full considering it was a Thursday (again), and the outpouring of admiration of Filipinos for this magical music maker. They could not get enough of taking his pictures with their cellphones ! And they stayed and danced to his music till he played the last track, so he could leave for the next leg of his tour, Singapore, I think. They asked for more but this man voted as America's Favorite DJ for 2004 by BPM Magazine, really had to leave or he would miss his flight. For a jaded partyphile and trance lover like me, it was his best gig ever. I was amazed at his ingenuity, his new experimentations with trance music, had paid off. The result was still his signature style, one knew it was PVD, but it didn't sound old or rehashed. He got everybody hooting and stomping, especially when he played his old hits.

Of course, to make the party complete, the usual cast of characters were there-the photographers to record this unforgettable event who themselves seem not to get enough of PVD pictures at the turntables, the pretty young things in their sexy fashionable get-ups, the irritating girls who cause long lines in the toilet because they have to talk to somebody on their cellphones in the toilet cubicle, people who had no idea what this party was all about and who the DJ was, and a group of male models parading on the dancefloor like they're the untouchables, the scheming males who position themselves for possible physical contact to the girls giddy from dancing, and of course, partyphiles like me, who go to these events because we love the music and we love the scene.

Paul Van Dyk got a nomination to the Grammy this year, as the academy first introduced the category Best in Electronica Music/Dance. This East Berliner whose only contact to dance tunes was the radio in the eighties is now Germany's most influential music maker. This year he has won Dancestar Awards' for Best International DJ, Best Event, and Best Music in a Commercial (Motorola). He also won the Mexican Oscar for musical scoring for the film Zurdo. He was MixMag's Man of the Year in 1999, and Muzik Magazine has called him Leader of Trance Nation. He has been voted by DJ Magazine as the Best Musicmaker, ahead of legendary DJs Fatboy Slim and Paul Oakenfold. It was, indeed, a big catch for Big Fish to have gotten him into Manila again.

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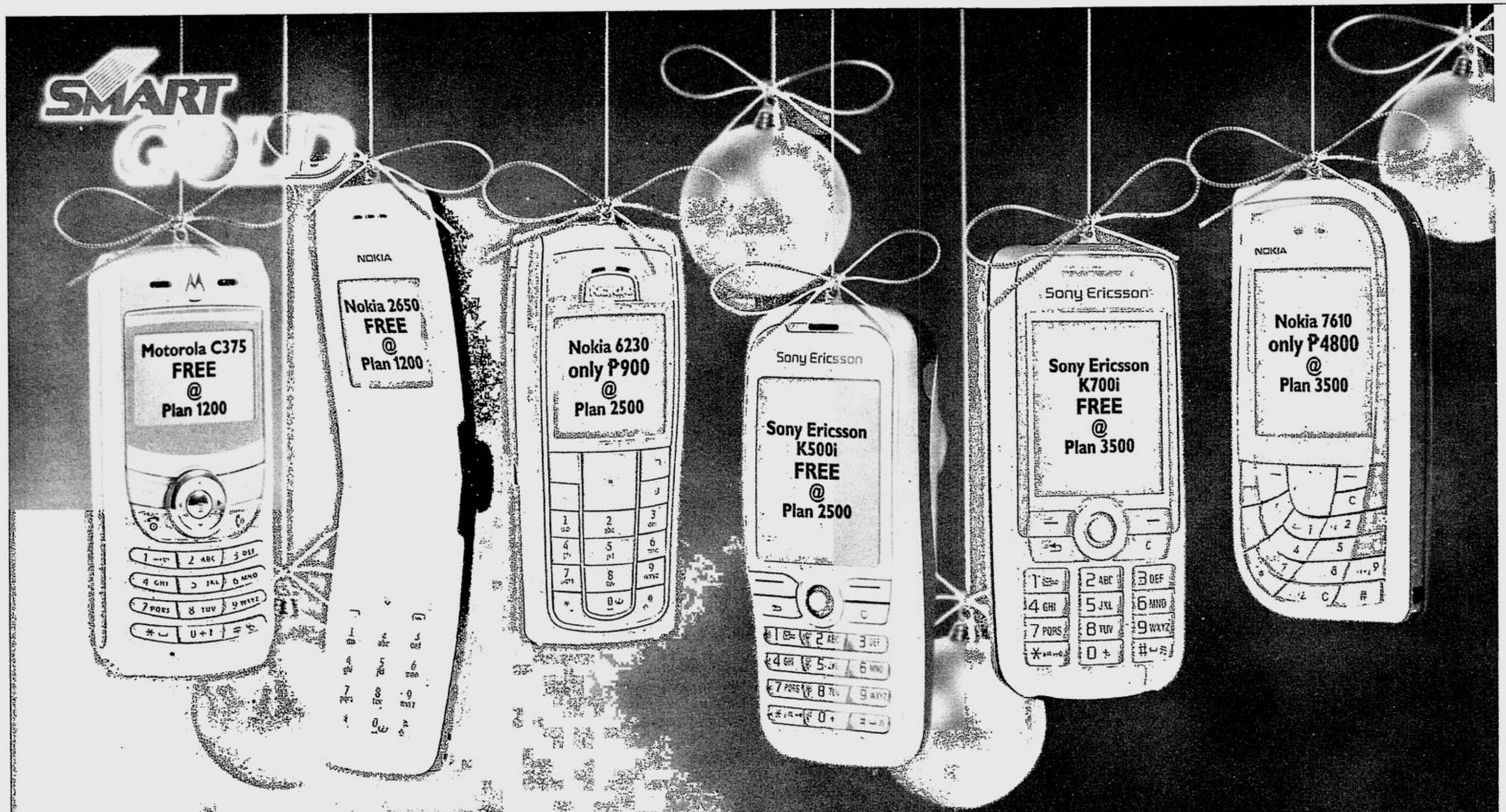


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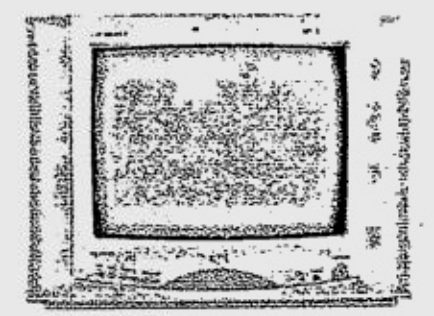

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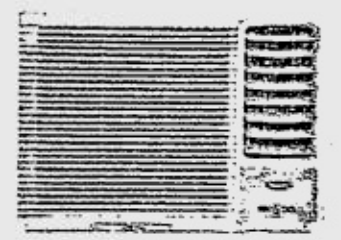

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# A do-it-yourself Christmas soundtrack

By Alex Almario

THERE is something deviously fascist about Christmas. Look around you: the dainty decorations hanging at the office or taunting you on sidewalks and streets (or worse, the ones you laboriously put up in your own home, which automatically translated into skyrocketing Meralco bills); the long queues in malls, and the cash you absently let go of in the hopes that certain people would like what you bought them, only for them to throw your gifts onto a conveyor belt of token Kris-Kringles they weren't exactly thrilled about.

The truth is that we have no choice. Either subject yourself to this ritual or exclude yourself from the entire human race altogether.

Every authoritarian regime has its own anthems, and for this one, it's Christmas carols. This is as much a staple of the holidays as Christmas trees, the *parol* and hand-me-down fruitcakes for Noche Buena. Do the math and you will realize that, by the time you're 80, you will have listened to annual ditties like "The Christmas Song," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "White Christmas" around 3,000 times. If you don't think that's a lot, then imagine listening to "Ocho-Ocho" every-

A DO-IT/ I2

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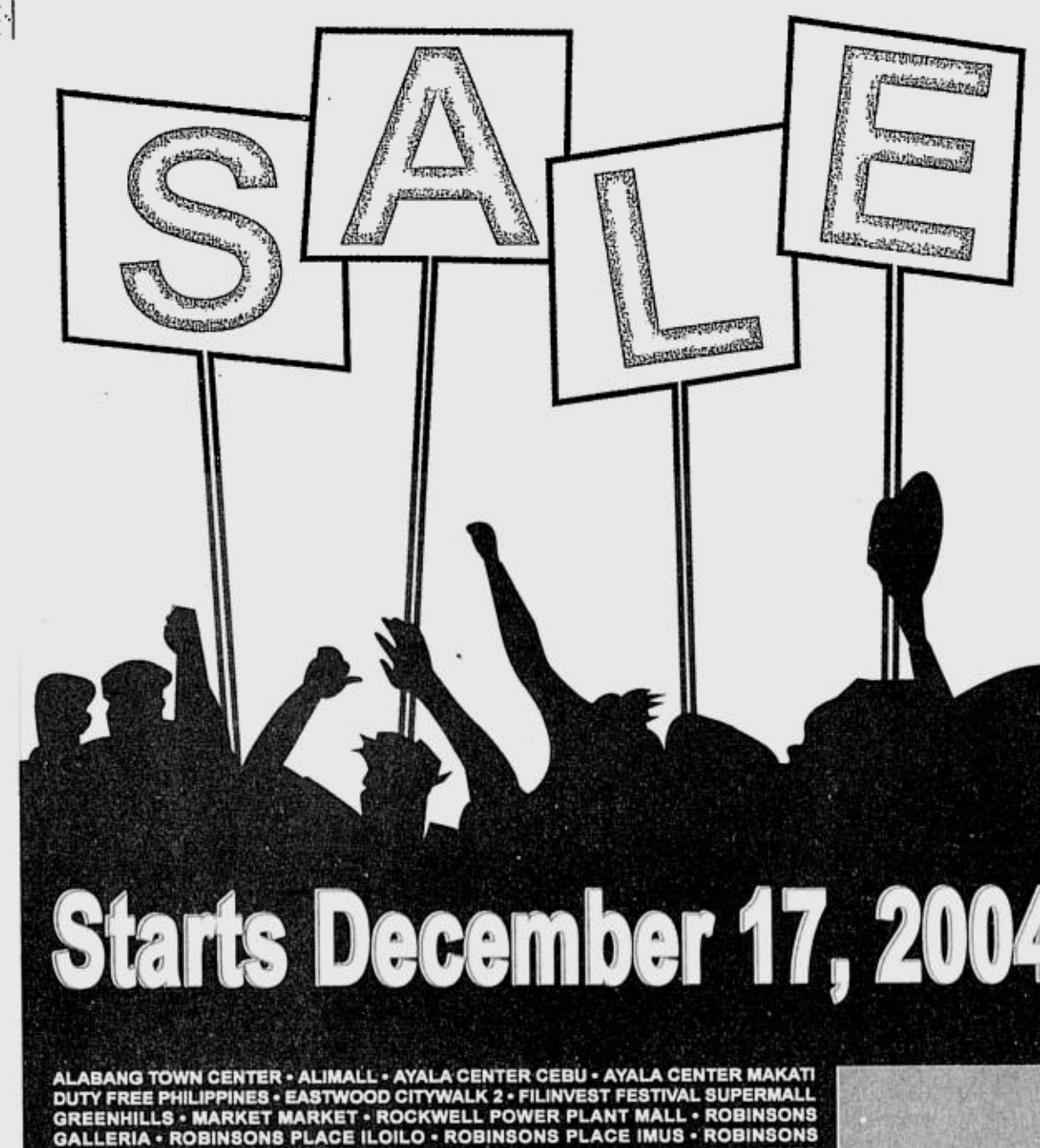


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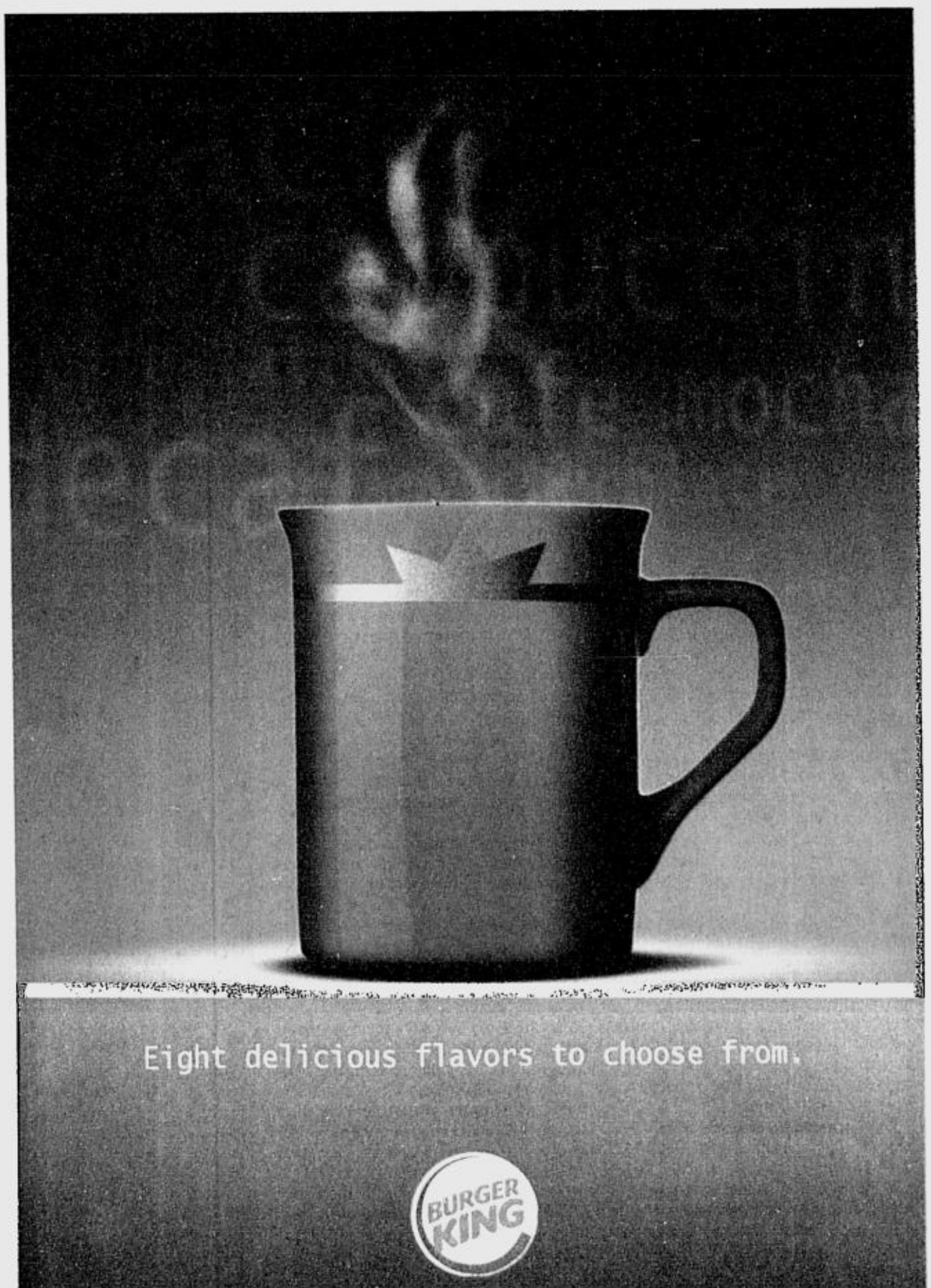
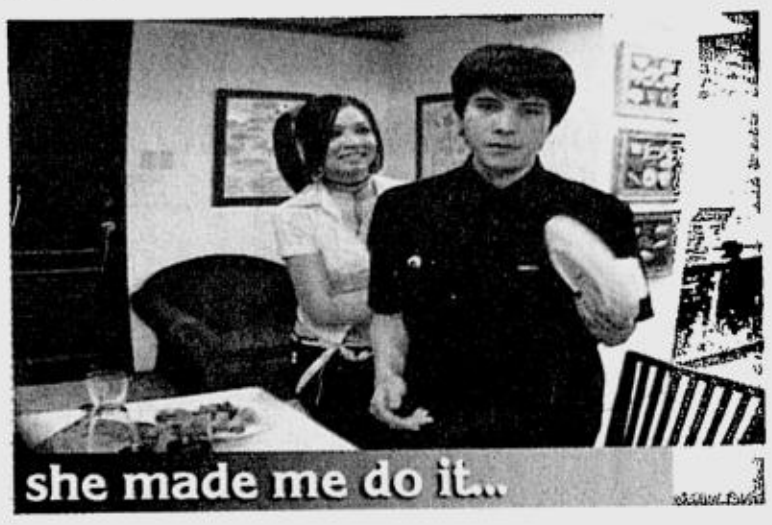



The next time J-RO reads the Inquirer Golf Monthly, it will be a lot different from the one she's holding

And she'll be on the cover again!

Watch out for the year-end GLOSSY issue of IGM on Tuesday, Dec. 21


she made me do it...

rock-solid 'do...

weeenk! weeenk! weeenk! wee

# It used to be all good

doin' the luigi...

PHOTOS FROM THE ETC WEBSITE

**By Pam Pastor, Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz**

THE COUCH potatoes of this part of the world rejoiced when Solar Entertainment's ETC channel invaded our screens. With its advent, the days of complaining about the lack of anything good to watch on television disappeared into oblivion.

How can you gripe when you have Jay Leno, Conan O' Brien, Will & Grace, Jamie Kennedy and even the freaks from "Blind Date" and "The Fifth Wheel" to keep you company on cold, dateless nights? Together, we sudden ETC converts waited with bated breath for the results of the makeovers on "Queer Eye for a Straight Guy" and "Knock First." We sat through "Iron Chef," laughed as the host waxed poetic about tomatoes and carrots and imagined how hot that giant kitchen stadium must be. We shook our heads at the crazy antics of the women from "Girls Behaving Badly." We cringed at the self-circumcision scene from "Nip/Tuck." We developed a Paris Hilton obsession, thanks (or no thanks) to "The Simple Life." We had arguments with our friends on whether "For Love or Money" and "Meet My Folks" were scripted. "Entertainment Tonight" had us completely addicted. We've been crossing our fingers for the replay of the "Saturday Night Live" episodes with Sylvester Stallone and Justin Timberlake. We enjoyed the extensive coverage of the Athens Olympics by the "Today Show."

We've retold the in-depth stories we've seen on "Dateline" and "Nightly News" to anyone willing to listen. "The OC" and "One Tree Hill" now have mini-fan clubs everywhere. And with "American Idol" still on hiatus, we're letting "Star Search" tide us over.

mickey closes the gap...

Here's a lesson for a channel we love—if it ain't broke, don't fix it

Undeniably, ETC had become a part of our lives in 2004—and we weren't ashamed to admit it.

Sure, it had its shortcomings, what with the repetitive commercials (Who hasn't memorized the "Star Search" teaser? "My time, my time! This is it! Five stars!") and the constant replays. But we were willing to live with that.

We appreciate their wordplay—after all, how many other TV stations actually brandish their wit in choosing their shows' categories? ETC was new, fun and exciting—and it gave us what we wanted.

We thought those first few months were the beginning of a lasting love affair with this new channel.

But, just like finding out that your hot new girlfriend used to be someone else's boyfriend, the people behind our beloved ETC sprang a nasty surprise on us.

They began their search for the ETC host.

And while people hungry for limelight and dreaming of stardom rushed to submit their applications, the rest of us asked one question.

Why?

Still, we faithful followers decided to give the idea a chance. Maybe the host wouldn't be annoying, maybe she could actually make the Entertainment Channel even more entertaining.

But the Face-Off proved to be a turn-off.

Maybe we're not exactly pissed off at the idea of having a VJ, rather it's the cheesy selection process that we had to witness.

For weeks, 10 finalists sashayed in front of our screens, hurdling the different tasks given to them so they could prove their worth. Like bystanders drawn to a car wreck, we watched.

We watched them run around Glorietta, doing all kinds of dares—from asking strangers to scratch their backs to drinking from other people's cups.

We rolled our eyes as they performed pseudo-makeovers—their sad attempt at copying "Queer Eye For a Straight Guy."

The Rock-Out task didn't really rock. And the height of the annoyance was the Date To Dismember, where the girls were given 10 challenges to complete during a blind date.

We weren't amused.

So the next time the Face-Off segment went on, we started switching channels.

And since it was on a lot, sometimes, we forgot to switch back. We turned our attention back to our DVDs.

And we're not the only ones channel-surfing now, it's almost everyone we talk to.

They echoed our disappointment, agreeing that a channel like ETC does not need a host. The great shows are enough to keep us hooked.

Why ruin a perfectly good channel with unnecessary chatter from yet another VJ-wannabe? Is it a way to kill airtime? Is it an attempt at becoming hip? (That word makes us shudder.)

This week, between watching the eggnog-vomiting Kermit and Kevin Spacey on "Conan O'Brien," we found out that ETC has finally chosen a new host.

She better be good.

Because really, we don't want our love affair with ETC to turn into a fling.

dancing over dessert...

# A do-it-yourself Christmas soundtrack

From page 11

day for the next nine years. Ah, the wonders of mathematics.

About a decade ago, my inner anal-retentive music geek woke up from the haze left by the Jackson 5's Christmas album and decided that the world had no right defining what Christmas songs were. I mean, it's one thing to hold a synthetic grin to "Merry Christmas" greeters for days on end or being caught having a foot-spa kit gift-wrapped inside a health and beauty shop, but it's quite another to have my December playlists forever dictated by "tradition."

Henceforth, I've managed to create my own Christmas musical tradition, mentally dog-earring my CD and tape collection for songs that perfectly fit the Yuletide season without the Santa Claus or mistletoe references. Prudes would be quick to judge me as a regular scrooge. But what they don't realize is that this is the ultimate anti-bah-humbug statement—seeing little sprinkles of that good ol' Christmas spirit from songs that aren't even about Christmas. Whereas anyone who can't feel Christmassy unless they play Jose Mari Chan's Christmas album are the real cynics who need psychiatric help.

## Snow falling on CDs

All Christmas music have one thing in common: They create a specific mood unmistakably belonging to Christmas. In this regard, my all-time favorite Christmas album remains to be the Cocteau Twins' "Four-Calendar Café."

The most diehard Cocteau fan will never know what Liz Fraser's mostly meowing about, but it's pretty safe to assume that sleigh rides and snowmen aren't among them. It doesn't matter. Listening to "Four-Calendar Café" in a tropical country is the closest thing you'll ever experience to winter.

Robin Guthrie's crystalline guitar sounds and Fraser's cherubim voice take over and snow falls in your mind. In the song "My Truth," the faint shoegazer guitar chime successfully approximates that of sleigh bells. The entire album projects subliminal images in the most sublime fashion. "Four-Calendar Café" is to Christmas what the first four Black Sabbath albums were to Satanism.

There are other winter-y songs that come to mind. The opening track in Mazzy Star's "Among My Swan" album, "Disappear," has this bell sound hovering over Hope Sandoval's meandering serenades and David Roback's grating guitars that sound like snowflakes dancing in your ear.

Swedish twee-pop darlings Club 8, with Karen Komstedt's cool, breezy vocals and Johan Angergard's precious arrangements, have also been a holiday fixture. "We're Simple Minds," from their "Spring Came, Rain Fell" album, has an intro (which almost sounds like a rip-off of Julee Cruise's "Falling"—the theme song from the TV series "Twin Peaks") that is perfect theme music for waking up on Christmas morning.

Another song, incidentally called "Love in December," can be a favorite for love-struck couples who can revel in its romantic imagery of long, dark nights and cold days.

## If you're feeling saccharine

The whole idea of Christmas—the gift-giving, warm-heartedness, celebrating at home with family—all boils down to nostalgia. It's the one period of every year when the whole world goes retro. How many of us still has that '60s-style white Christmas tree? Or insist on playing Bing Crosby over Christmas dinner? It's this universal hangover to those pristine old days when life was simpler and family was an indestructible unit headed by a man and a woman that make the holidays up to the 2000s tick.

Retro-sounding, easy-listening songs with cheery holiday undertones come in handy during December, even if they're actually about sexual infatuation.

Björk's "Venus As A Boy" from her "Debut" album conjures up images of Christmas with its xylophone melodies and orchestral swoon. When she sings: "His wicked sense of humor suggests exciting sex," she might as well have been singing "chestnuts roasting on an open fire." Her entire "Vespertine" album has a recurring music box theme, making it a great Nutcracker soundtrack for the new millennium.

Despite years of desensitizing commercialization, I still find Christmas' forced cynicism-free ambiance to be very charming. We have the rest of the year to bitch and wax existential about reality. But we need to take a break from all that, at least every December, and delude ourselves or at least magnify the good little things that we're still holding on to.

For this abnormally positive mood, there's always the band Teenage Fanclub. This Scottish trio emerged in the early '90s grunge explosion along with Nirvana, but the dissimilarities could not be more patent. Fanclub has an unwavering optimism that does not feel hokey or cheesy. They sing about the good coming out of the bad, getting shelter from the storm, finding your way back home after being lost—all without a hint of irony. Perfect Christmas stuff.

Their song "Your Love is the Place Where I Come From" has the most Yuletide cheer out of their vast discography of sanguinity. Its beat has a carol-like tidiness, plus the chiming bell sounds in the chorus before they sing, "I can't slip away when I see your face, I lose my confusion," paint a picture of a tired man coming home to the woman he loves on Christmas Day. Isn't that what we all really need at the end of the day, or the year?

FORGET the bandwagon: Personalizing your holiday musical selection can be a nice start to a subversive Christmas celebration AP

THE BOTTOM line is that you should celebrate Christmas the way you want to. REUTERS

Obscure American pop duo Swan Dive is another one of those old-school pure souls of contemporary music. With the influences of Burt Bacharach and the Beach Boys weighing heavily on their songs, it's almost impossible not to associate their sound with the holidays.

"That Hat," from their latest album "William and Marly's," is perhaps their most unflinchingly heartwarming song, despite its offhand depiction of delinquency. Evoking images of a poor boy walking along snow-covered shops festooned with mechanical angels, the song never outwardly mentions anything about Christmas, largely because it doesn't need to.

The boy sees a hat he wants to buy for his loved one but is too poor to afford it. The last lines of the song, in full orchestral power, goes: "Hark, I hear the angels sing, nobody has to know. I take the hat under my coat and pray for my journey home. I made it home." Its combination of poor-boy Christmas kitsch and shoplifter heroism makes it a certified holiday classic.

## 'Tis the season to be blue

My favorite quote from any Christmas movie does not come from James Stewart in "It's A Wonderful Life," but from Steve Martin in "Mixed Nuts." "You're miserable because it's Christmas," he tells a suicidal man who is about to jump off a building wearing a Santa suit.

Christmas does have the ability to make you feel twice as miserable as you would on an ordinary day because of the cheeriness expected from it. When optimism fails, there's always the sweet comfortable pillow we call depression where we can wallow and mope while fighting the bitter cold. Lonely? Broke? Down on your luck? Traditional Christmas songs have absolutely no empathy for losers. I made it a point that my collection does.

Swan Dive has a loosely Christmas-themed EP called "Wintergreen" where they have a hilarious, almost drunken version of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and a holiday anthem for the lonely and desperate entitled "Santa, Can't You Bring Me A Man." The song is done with enough camp to not be taken seriously, but women on the verge of going Bridget Jones on Christmas Eve may feel free to sing along earnestly. After a considerable amount of alcohol, they can get away with lines like: "Make him sweet, make him savage, all in one big package and leave the unwrapping to me. If he's strong, if he's tender, with a gentlemanly splendor, I'll take him C.O.D., that's Cuddle On Delivery."

Those who wish to take the serious, introspective route can choose from either of three ice-cold heartbreakers: Coldplay's "Sparks," Trembling Blue Stars' "A Single Kiss" or Mazzy Star's "Flowers in December." All three have that cold, yearning and echoing sound that captures the sheer hollowness of feeling insignificant during what is hyped to be the most significant season.

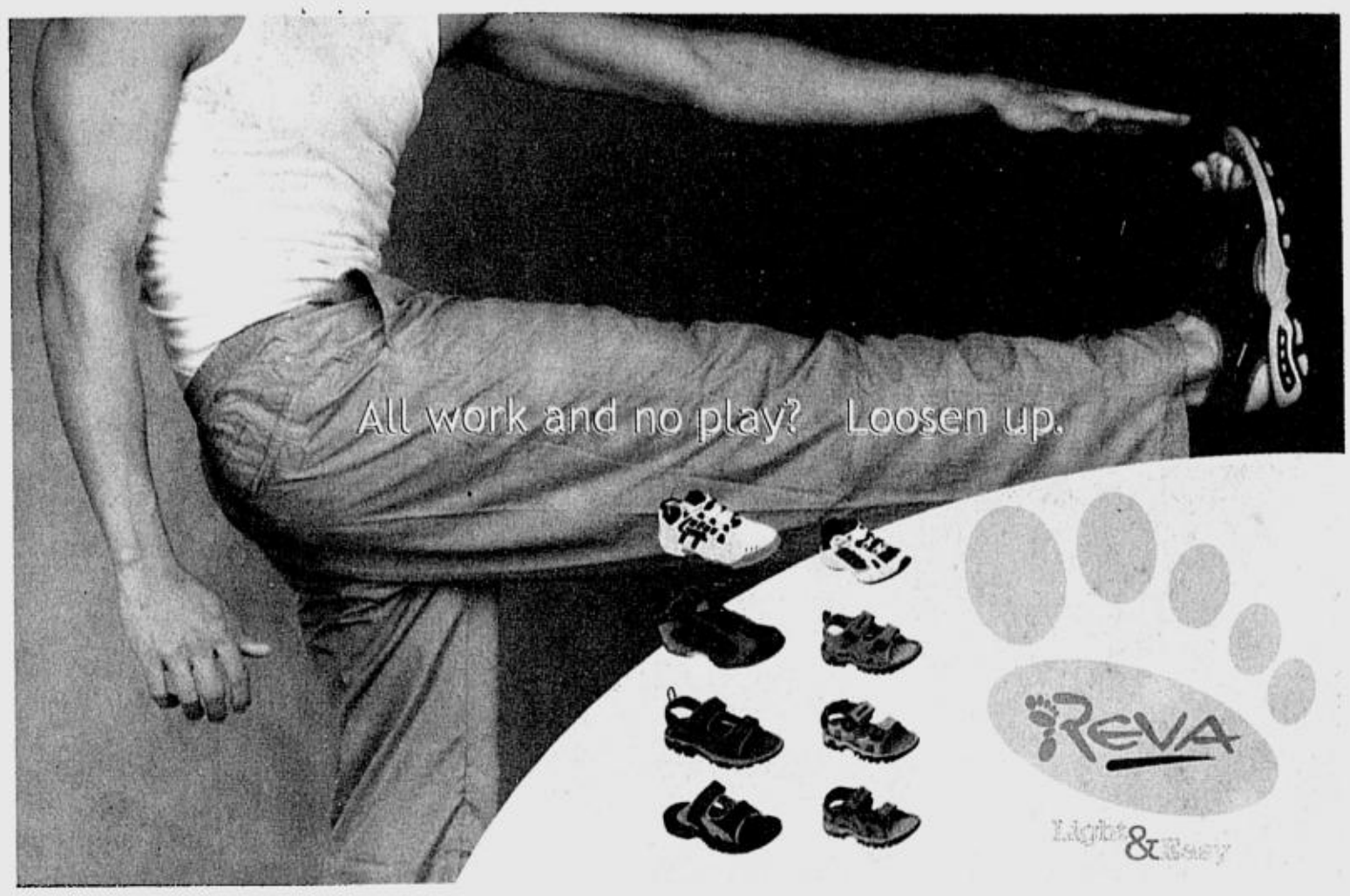
You can also try listening to "I Hate December" by Ivy, which has doomsday lyrics like: "All I know is what I dream, but lately dreams have been such scary things of suicide and frozen ice over my pale body... suffocating December," gliding through a detached indie-pop beat that slightly balances things out. It's still upbeat enough to stop you from falling off the edge.

The bottom line is that you should celebrate Christmas the way you want to. If it means locking yourself inside your room, sipping cheap wine teary-eyed and staring outside your window as the soundtrack to "Love, Actually" blares from your stereo, then go knock yourself out. If it means enjoying your family's company, caterwauling in front of the videoke machine, getting drunk and calling your boss to tell him you hate his guts and that you won't take crap from him anymore, then more power to you.

Personalizing your holiday musical selection can be a nice start to a subversive Christmas celebration. It can give you that sense of liberation while you're stuck in traffic trying to do some last-minute shopping or at home dodging visits from god-children you forgot existed. *Viva la revolucion*, indeed.

## Pop Pasko at Eastwood

CATCH Luke Mejares, Kyla, Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez sing popular holiday tunes in Pop Pasko at Eastwood City at 8 tonight to celebrate the upbeat and joyous spirit of Christmas. Ready yourself for a sparkling and music-filled evening.




# Black Tie

Black Seven culminates with an exclusive dress up party this Monday at Embassy at Eastwood.

Last July, Johnnie Walker held "Black is Back," at Nuvo, thus launching 2004's Black Seven series of events: Seven parties that celebrated male progression and paid tribute to men of the metro who have excelled in their various fields.

The scene's achievers from the industries of retail to publishing to bar owners to artists, designers and DJ's were honored in monthly themed events at some of Manila's hottest nightspots:

Black Knights at V bar paid tribute to the owners of Manila's top bars: Jay Server of Capones, Albert Besa of Ponti, Erik Cua of Temple, Mark Villar and Jason Webb of Yaku, Beaver Lopez of Teak, and Louie Ysmael of V-Bar

Black Market at M café honored top retailers: Mike Advani of Chocolate Clothing, Mike Arcenas of Nike Park, Miguel Celdran of Gas Jeans, Anton Gonzalez of Planet Sports, Jon Syjuco of Aura Athletica, Joel Tantoco of U-Rustans, and Paolo Tuason of Benetton & Sisely.

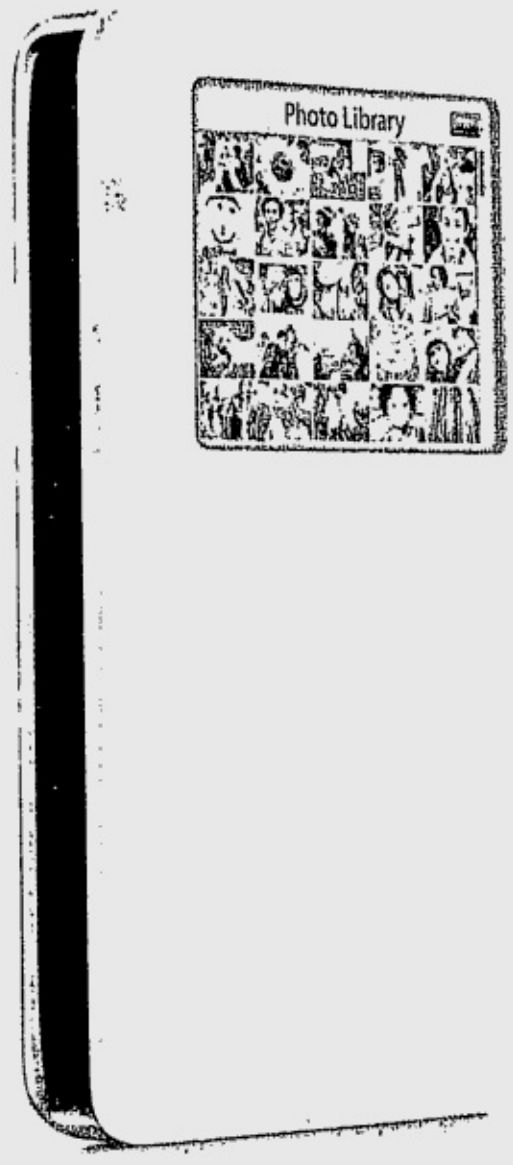
Black Book at Teak gave credence to the men behind the most popular publications: Brian Siew of Lemon, Rovilson Fernandez of ABS-CBN publishing, Vanni de Sequerra of Manual, Vince Salas of T3, Kevin Limjoco of Cl, Tom Favis of Uno and Vernon Go of MTV Ink.

Black Beats at Paseo Uno Lounge honored the scene's top DJ's Juno Oebanda, Boyet Almazan, Johnny Verse, Benjo Marquez, Kevin Ruiz, Manolet Dario and the late great TC.

Black Arts at Absinth paid tribute to Manila's seven creative forces:

Artist Kiko Escora, Commercial Director Sid Maderazo, Artiste/Designer Ronald Pasyon, Photographers Victor Consunji and Steve Tirona, Film Director Quark Henares, and Viktor Jeans Designer Ino Caluza.

This Monday, Dec. 20, The last Black Seven Party of the year happens at the newest nightspot sure to be the place to be in 2005, Embassy at the Fort. The strictly by invitation affair will gather together the scene's most beautiful people dressed in Black Suits and Black Dresses, and celebrating the party scene's current drink of choice: Black Seven.




There's more to pack between you

- Up to 25,000 photos[1]
- Up to 42 days of continuous voice recording[2]
- Office documents
- Games
- Phone and email contacts
- Calendar appointments

and your music.

Now, you can share holiday memories with your friends and relatives without lugging bulky laptops or photo albums around. Poring through that organizer for your meetings won't be necessary either. With up to 60 GB of room for as many as 25,000 photos, ...or up to 42 days of continuous voice recording, the iPod can keep both your work and life mobile, within your pocket. All without putting a pause on your music.

[1] Photos has to be transfered via a computer using iTunes. Photo capacity is based in iPod-viewable photos transferred from iTunes. For more information about the iPod photo's full capabilities, please visit www.asia.apple.com/ipodphoto
[2] Requires the use of third party accessories.

Enjoy up to 2 years' peace of mind with hardware coverage plus technical support via phone, email or web with the AppleCare Protection Plan for your iPod.

Suggested Retail Price:

iPod Photo 40GB PhP 31,080 / 60GB PhP 38,130
AppleCare Protection Plan PhP 3,500

Authorized Resellers:

Manila: Abenson Avant - Acenet - Ambassador- Apple Center - Asianic - Astroplus - Astrovision* - AV Surfer - Best Mobile - Bose* - Columbia* - Comcentre - Complink- Dataview - Digital Walker* - Electronics Boutique - E-Hub - Electroworld - Games & Gadgets - Globatel - Infonet - LMK - Microstation - Mobile 1 - Nike Forum - Nike Women - NT Computer - O Music Video - Odyssey* - palmOne PodCentral - PC Express - PC Quarter - PC Supplies - PC Worx - Senco Link - Silicon Valley* - The Outlet Store - Tridel Computer - True Value* - Villman - Wellcom* - Ynzal - 5th Avenue*
Northern Luzon: Baguio - Exponent Enterprises - UNICOM - Dagupan - WOW! Mobile and Gadgets
Visayas: Cebu - @ Games - Audionet - AV Surfer - Siritz - CBX Corporation - Electroworld - JUNREX - Lifestyle and Fine Living - Ng Khai Service Center - Silicon Valley - Thinking Tools, Inc. - Bacolod - BCG Enterprises - Datalink Technologies, Inc. Ilo-Ilo: Concept Computer - Delta Merchandising
Mindanao: Cagayan De Oro Quality Appliance Center - Unipace Davao - Central Warehouse Club - Chimes - Columbia Computer - Digital Interface - Electro-world - Metro Plaza - RJ Homes - Silicon Valley - Thinking Tools - General Santos - Columbia Computer Marbel - On line Computer - Zamboanga - Shoppers' Mart, Inc.

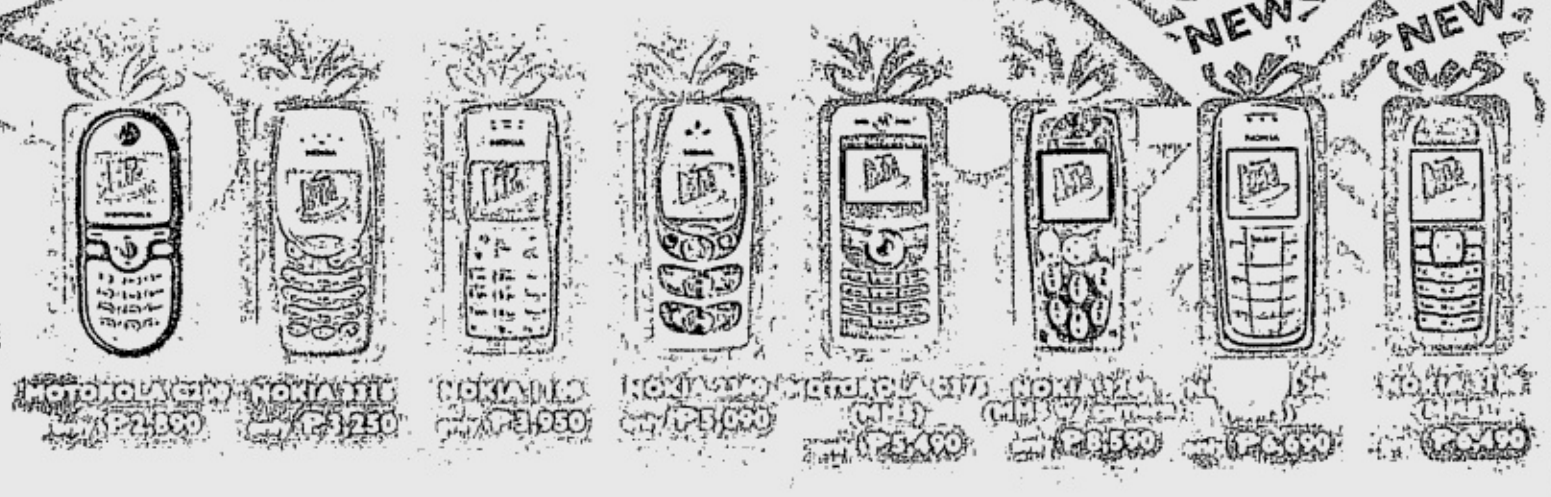
*Selected branches only

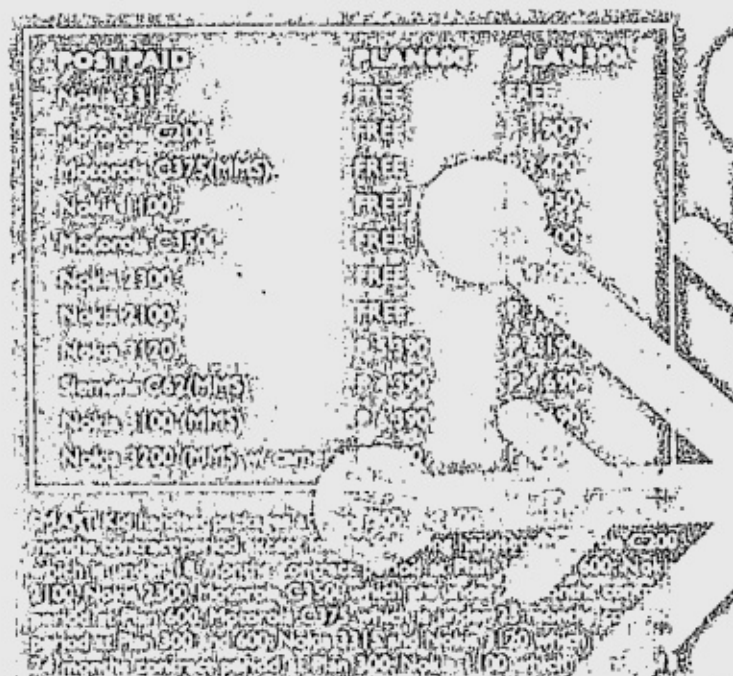
Authorized Distributor
MICROWAREHOUSE

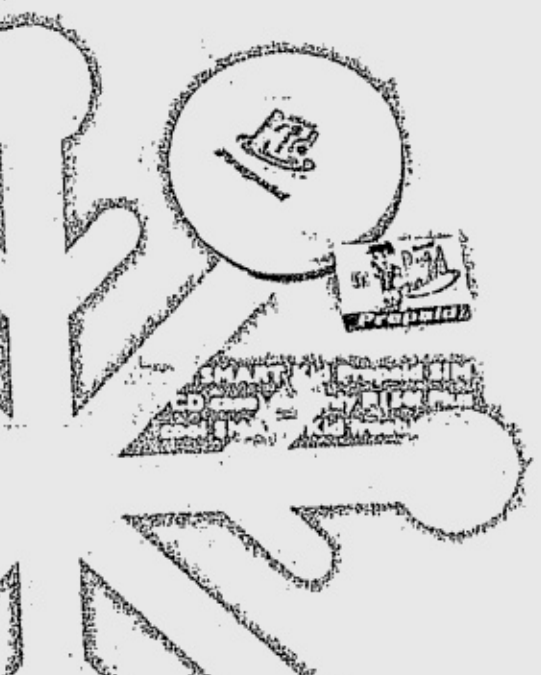
After all, it's not about giving him what he wants, it's about giving him what he needs.

SMART Kid

The FIRST Cellone for Kids



Surprise your kid with a SMART Kid phone kit—in a special Christmas gift bag!

Promo runs from December 15, 2004 - January 2, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3373. Series of 2004.

For more details, please call the SMART Sales Hotline at 848-8882. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, or 1888 (toll free); e-mail us at smartkid@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

TOY KINGDOM
THE AMAZING TOY STORE!

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Hi, my name is Karen Bordador
This Christmas, I would love to receive the latest Nokia phone model or an endless supply of clothes
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is myself... hehe
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of having it snow here and Santa Claus being real!
The person I would love to spend Christmas with is my carrot. Hahaha, O wish!
E-mail me at karenbordador@hotmail.com

Hi, my name is JP Bayangos
This Christmas, I would love to receive a Mob Boss. Rich Dad Poor Dad
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is my brother Earl
And the last one would be myself
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of me, delivering gifts to all the flood victims
The person I would love to spend Christmas with is my apple (I love you Huni)
E-mail me at coffeesicily@yahoo.com

# Superfriends

Text and photos by David Milan

Hi, my name is Randi Tecson
This Christmas, I would love to receive a watch
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is my brother
And the last ones would be my parents
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of people having so much fun
The person I would love to spend Christmas with is someone special
E-mail me at randitecson@yahoo.com

Hi, my name is Zenda Precious Medina
This Christmas, I would love to receive a Powerbook G4 laptop
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is my best friend, Marta
And the last one would be Santa—since he's got tons of gifts already
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of partying in the snow
The persons I would love to spend Christmas with are my mom and dad, since they've supported me all throughout this year
E-mail me at pre@email.com

Hi, my name is Larah Danielle Monterola
This Christmas, I would love to receive an inspirational book
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is Cara, my best friend
And the last one would be my mom
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of my dad, coming home for Christmas
E-mail me at larah8@yahoo.com

SUPERFRIENDS/ J2

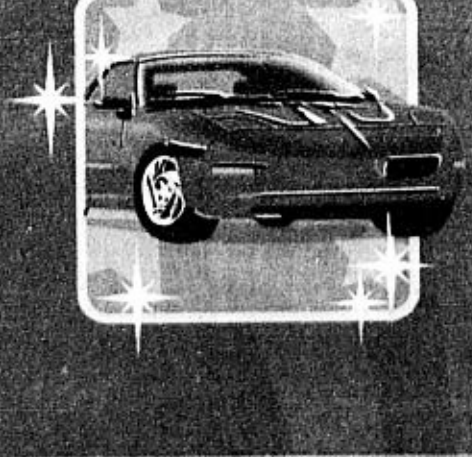
Come and join the fun!

Royal Family Treats

at Araneta Center

Free Feng-Shui Planets
Find out your day-to-day fortune while saving a fortune with special discount coupons worth over P1,000!
December 8 to 31, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-826 S. of 2004
SEE BANNERS FOR MORE DETAILS!

Santa Mall Tour
Pose for pictures with everyone's favorite North Pole resident
December 18
3:00 to 4:30pm All Malls 5:00 to 8:30pm Gateway
December 19
3:00 to 4:30pm Farmers Plaza 5:00 to 8:30pm Gateway
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-825 S. of 2004



Christmas Joyride
Holiday car show featuring sports and modified cars
Romy Posadas and his band
December 18 6pm (Coliseum)
Parking Quadrant 6 Tea Cafe
Bean & Tea Leaf (Gateway Mall)

GATEWAY • FARMERS PLAZA • ALI MALL • FARMERS MARKET • COLISEUM CIRCLE 2
VALUE STATION • RUSTAN'S • SM • SHOPWISE ARCADE • FIESTA CARNIVAL • ARANETA COLISEUM

# Superfriends

Hi, my name is Alyza Duazo
This Christmas, I would love to receive a pink mini iPod
The first person II'll give a gift to this Christmas is my boyfriend
And the last one would be: NO ONE. I would give all my presents at the same time
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of spending it with my friends and family in Bangkok
The persons I would love to spend Christmas with are my family, friends and BF
E-mail me at alyza_duazo@yahoo.com

Hi, my name is Michelle Lao
This Christmas, I would love to receive a trip to L.A.
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is my brother
And the last one would be my boyfriend... tee-hee.
My extraordinary Christmas would be a white one.
The persons I would love to spend Christmas with are The Panda Gang!!!
E-mail me at michelle_lao@yahoo.com

From page J1

Hi, my name is Jay Alcantara
This Christmas, I would love to receive a Christmas card and a surfboard
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is my mom
And the last one would be my boss
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of spending it on a beach
The persons I would love to spend Christmas with are my family and friends
E-mail me at jzi999@yahoo.com

Hi, my name is Allan Chew
This Christmas, I would love to receive a rectoring batch
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is my *Kuya* Jess
And the last one would be myself
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of spending it with my loved ones.
The person I would love to spend Christmas with is my _____
E-mail me at chew@heartthrob.com

Hi, my name is JR Bulaon
This Christmas, I would love to receive a gift that only I can have, only one person can give and only I can cherish for the rest of my life
The first person I'll give a gift to this Christmas is GOD
And the last one would be myself
My extraordinary Christmas would consist of finding myself in bliss
The person I would love to spend Christmas with is the girl I never had
E-mail me at jr_bubbles10@yahoo.com

ENERVON
AXN
XTREME

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT GUTS?
PROVE IT.

IT'S THE PHILIPPINE'S FIRST EVER
EXTREME STUNT CHALLENGE!

- Take on the craziest dares
- Face your greatest fears
- Win BIG prizes, and even BIGGER fans!
- Be seen on AXN across Asia, in this AXN original production.

HERE'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO
TO QUALIFY FOR A SHOT AT FAME

If you are 18 years and older, and think you've got what it takes to charm TV audiences, make your way down to the Qualifying Round:

Where: Rizal Coliseum, Manila
When: [illegible]
How to join: [illegible]

WIMPS NEED NO APPLY

AXN

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MULTIVITAMINS ENERVON
Live More

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Gladé SPORT
SMIRNOFF ICE LIGHT

OFFICIAL MOBILE PHONE PARTNER
NOKIA 6630

PARTNERS
SKYCABLE
HOME

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XTREME

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If you are 18 years and older, and think you've got what it takes to charm TV audiences, make your way down to the Qualifying Round.

Where:
When:
How much?

WIMPS NEED NOT APPLY!

AXN

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HOME

# Common Abomination

*"Mediocre minds usually dismiss anything which reaches beyond their own understanding."*

–Francois de la Rochefoucald

*"Oh great creator of being, grant us one more hour to perform our art and perfect our lives."*

–Jim Morrison

Tals Diaz

THERE are quite a few words that I profess to be allergic to, words that I banish to the purgatory of mediocrity. I would rather listen to the trill of sharp fingernails being scratched on a blackboard 24/7 than hear the words "Generic," "Tepid," "Mediocre," "Average," "Commonplace" and perhaps the most odious phrase of all, "*Pwede na yan*."

I owe this personal quirk to my dearly departed father, who used to constantly reproach me each time he heard me saying, "*Pwede na*" during his personal tutoring sessions back in my high school days, struggling with my eternal waterloo, Advanced Algebra. He would advice me, albeit in a raised tone, "*Hindi na pwede ang pwede na!*" (Or to translate it more simply in the words of another old mentor, Yoda: "There is no try, only do!")

## Zest for the best

Applying such paternal wisdom, Yoda's didactics, and Pavlovian rationale, I find myself still cringing to this day when I hear those vocabulary words spoken by the cultists of mediocrity. For I'd suddenly be flooded with memories of unforgiving quadratic equations and Algebraic problems that my father would not allow me to leave unsolved until I understood everything perfectly. Who would have thought that those red-eyed, sleepless nights enduring dreaded Math problems birthing my dad's favorite mantra would be my life's guiding post? This sense of perfection has unexpectedly influenced, to my betterment or detriment, many of my endeavors in my day-to-day living. From working to working out, playing to partying, reading to romancing, heck, even down to brushing my teeth, I would find myself asking if I was giving my very best to such affairs.

Naturally, I am never bereft of admiration when I observe others employing 101 percent of themselves to the task at hand, no matter how seemingly mundane. In fact, possessing such sense of excellence bestows dignity to any venture. Some would term it being "O.C." (that's Obsessive Compulsive, not "Orange County" you ETC channel junkies!), yet I believe that a certain degree of "O.C.-ness" is sorely needed in the craft of perfecting our lives.

## Perfect examples

I used to date a Spanish chef who would refuse to pick up a knife to start preparing his to-die-for paella if he lacked even just one spice or food coloring, hunger pangs notwithstanding. (Suffice to say that I'd sneak off to the McDonald's around the corner to wolf down their perfect fries, ignoring the caveats of the documentary "Supersize Me").

Quite recently, by the coastline of the Caribbean, I watched a woman whose daily job was to sweep the seaweed awashed on the mile long sandy shores. She took care not to miss even one straggler, knowing that what she did ensured the pristine vision of the waterfront. I'm still awed by Buddhist monks creating their sacred mandalas, who patiently and painstakingly compose with colored grains of sand to perfect their symmetrical masterpieces, soon to be swept away and cast into the river to symbolize the transience of the visible world. Even just watching the young sand sculptors of Boracay always leave me ruminating on passion and perfection, as they shape and carve their candlelit castles by sunset, knowing full well that the ebb and flow of the tides would soon wash away their opus.

## Labor pains

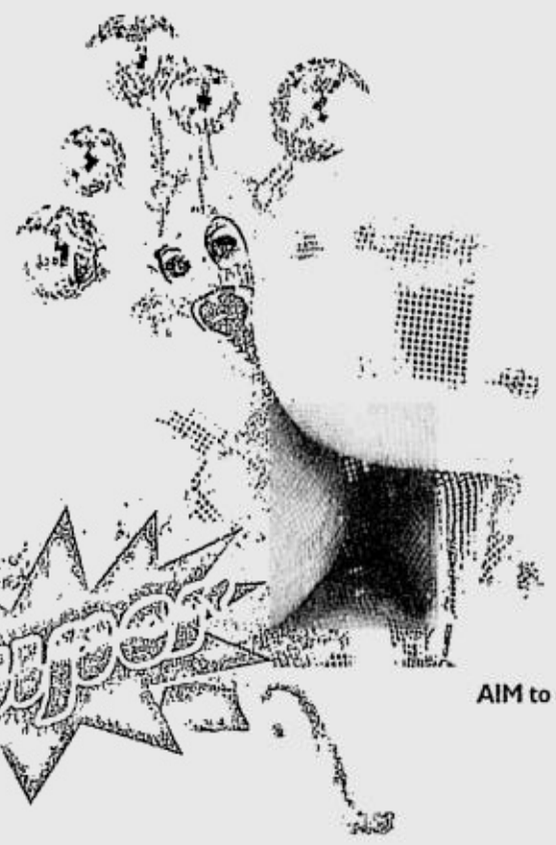
One could learn a thing or two about the principles of perfection and balance in Algebra and Art in labors that seem far removed from those Jeopardy categories—the workplace. Unfortunately, the plague of mediocrity seems to be commonplace in our culture, veritably at the expense of the public. Roads and highways are eternally pimpled with craters and potholes because I'd wager that at some point during its construction process, someone thought, "*pwede na yan*" with a job haphazardly done. Or how many times have we trekked to a music store or bookshop, asking a spaced out saleslady for help in searching for a specific purchase, and be told, "Out of stock" or "*Wala*," only to find the desired object in the next rack? For God's sake, trained dogs could do a better job at finding the CD of Nine Inch Nails!

It is ill logic, a distressing sign of lack of foresight, to think that one can bumble about between 9 to 5 programmed with an average work ethic, because a paycheck is coming in the next two weeks anyway.

## Choices

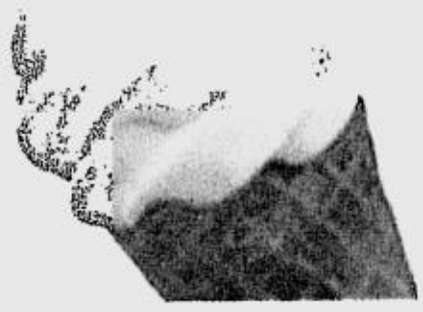
Does not greatness of character adhere to individuality? What we do, our labors, crafts and actions reflect our very own character. The choices are no-brainers: would you like to be passable or Passionate? Idle or Ideal? Ordinary or Extraordinary? Contribute to the common, or cause a commotion? It ain't rocket science, or worst, advanced Algebra.

*Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com*

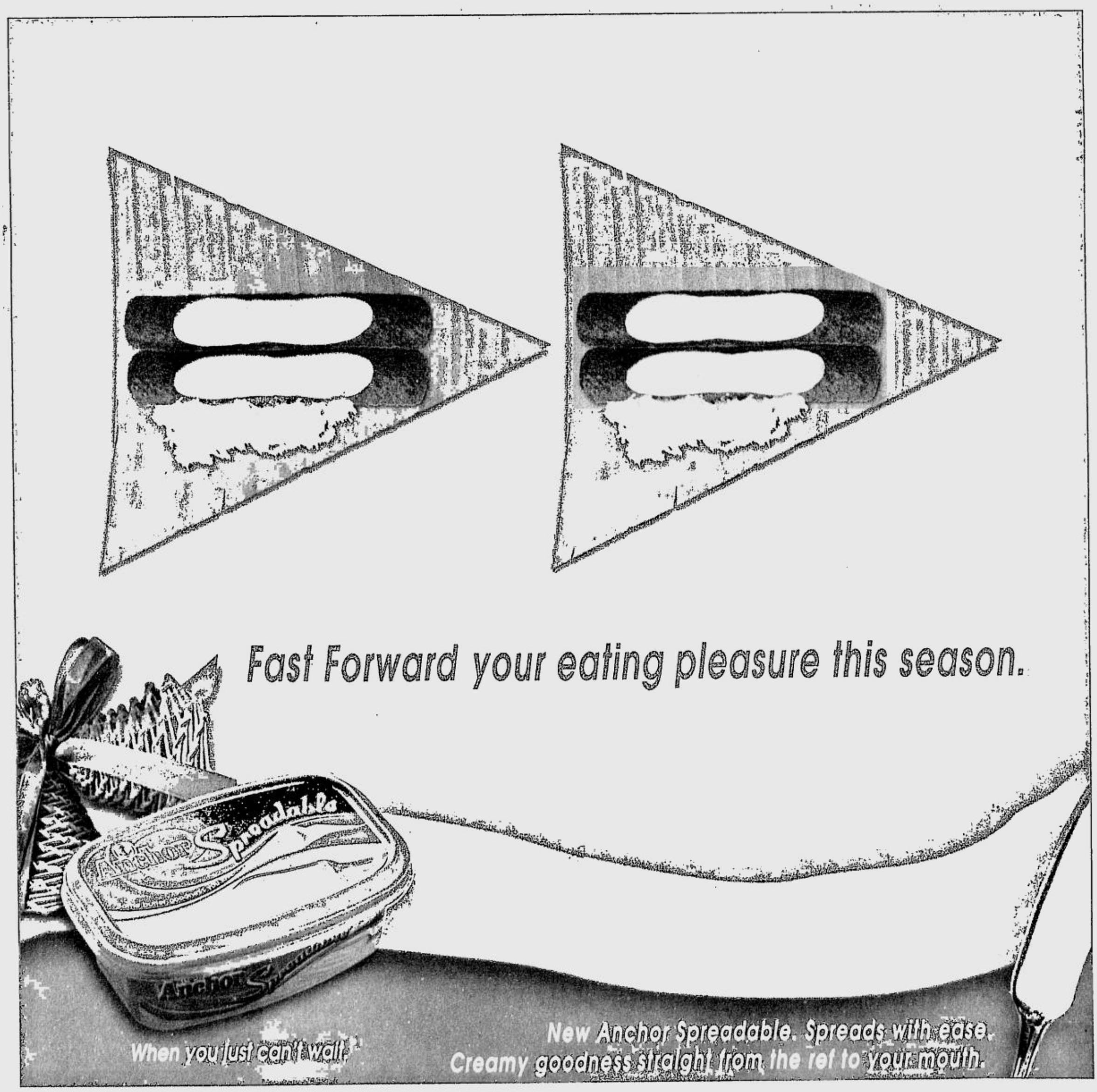


AIM to exclaim!

Developing an allergic reaction to mediocrity and a taste for vanilla lifestyles. 'Hindi na pwede ang pwede na!'



BLAH-nilla flavored



# THE IDD RATE YOU CAN USE AND ABUSE

## At 30¢ per minute, inaanaks can carol ninong in San Francisco with "Twelve Days of Christmas"... ...even for twelve days.

### Have a merrier Christmas with what you save from your Sun IDD!

Economically, it's been a tough year, but we Filipinos never let hard times stop ourselves from enjoying Christmas. It simply means we need to be more creative and look for better value whenever we can. So, when it comes to IDD rates, it's best to compare. You'll be pleasantly surprised to find that Sun Cellular's IDD rate is only 30¢ per minute to over 200 countries. That's a big 25% savings compared to other networks' IDD rates.

It's the IDD rate you can use and abuse – it allows you to spend real quality talk time with your family and friends abroad. Tell your best friend all the highlights of the Season or even the year past. Let your kids reel off their long Christmas lists to Tita or even allow your Kuya to eavesdrop on the Noche Buena banter. It's really up to you!

Best of all, Sun's 30¢ per minute IDD rate not only means that you can take your time wishing your loved ones a merry Christmas but also have enough money left to spare. Whenever you make an average-length call using Sun Cellular to your relatives and friends abroad, the P22 you save can readily be used to buy extra Christmas cards, ornaments and stocking treats. Or how about giving that money to charity? Your P22 can buy a toy in Divisoria to help bring cheer to an orphan or a notebook needed by an indigent student.

Then, there is always the extra pleasure of using the money left over after making all those IDD calls to buy the most special person in your life an unexpected Christmas present. So go out and get something nice – probably the latest mobile handset powered by Sun Cellular!

So save more with the IDD service you can use and abuse. It's Sun Cellular's way of wishing you a very merry Christmas.

# 30¢/min. IDD
## to over 200 countries
### 25% cheaper than regular IDD rates

SUN CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

# 24/7 LOGBOOK

# What's Hot This Week in the City

By Janine Cuenca-Dario

## This Week's Events

### Dec. 18

Mystique '80s Disco with DJ Boyet Almazan at Teak, Rockwell
Jingle Ball Party at Orosa Strip Malate
Christmas Concert at Peninsula Manila lobby
Pop Pasko at Eastwood Plaza
RnB music: Flava'D at Absinth, 3/F Greenbelt 3
First Circle at Greenbelt 2
Club music at Massive House at Bed, Malate
Big Night Out at Conway's Bar, Peninsula Manila
House music with DJs Adrian Cuenca & Martin Pulgar at Temple, Greenbelt 2
Filipino pop music at the Anniversary Party at 70s Bistro, QC
Ballet Philippines' Peter Pan's Neverneverland at the Cultural Center of the Philippines
The musical Wizard of Oz at Repertory Philippines' Globe Theater, Onstage, Greenbelt 1
Peter Pan and the Time Machine at the SM Megamall Cinema 10.

### Dec. 19

Ballet Philippines' Peter Pan's Neverneverland at the Cultural Center of the Philippines
The Musical Wizard of Oz at Repertory Philippines' Globe Theater, Onstage, Greenbelt 1
Peter Pan and the Time Machine at the SM Megamall Cinema 10.

### Dec. 20

Wunjo at Absinth, 3/F Greenbelt 3
Latin band Sabor Latino at Conway's Bar, Peninsula Manila
Folk singer Bayang Barrios at 70s Bistro, QC
Release Band at Temple, Greenbelt 2
Ladine Roxas with Trio at Merks, 3/F, Greenbelt 3
Jazz artist Tonet Salcedo at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel

### Dec. 21

RnB music at Ebony Grooves with DJ Jon Herrera & Stephen Ku at V Bar, Glorietta 2
Reggae music with the Spy band at 70s Bistro, QC
Flintstones & the Gang at Conway's Bar, Peninsula Manila
Retro music with Route 70 & Romy Posadas at Merks, 3/F Greenbelt 3
'60s band Spirit of 67 at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel
Ladies Night at Absinth, 3/F Greenbelt 3
Pop artist Ogie Alcasid Christmas Concert at Glorietta Activity Center

### Dec. 22

RnB DJ Steve Mills at Absinth, 3/F, Greenbelt 3
Retro band Rockin' Revival at Conway's Bar, Peninsula Manila
Arctic Ladies Night at Temple, Greenbelt 2
House music DJ Manolet Dario at Visa V Girl's Night Out at V Bar
Retro music with Way Back Wednesdays at Bed

### Dec. 23

Wave 89.1 Concert at Eastwood, QC
Pido at Greenbelt 2
Spirit of 67 at Conway's Bar, Peninsula Manila
DJ Patch at Absinth, 3/F, Greenbelt 3
Noel Cabangon and Cookie Chua at 70s Bistro
RnB DJ Steve Mills at Temple, Greenbelt 2
Disney on Ice-Princess Classics, Araneta Coliseum, QC

### Dec. 24

RnB music at Jive Fridays with DJ Jon Herrera and Steven Khu at Temple, Greenbelt 2
Anthemia at Absinth, 3/F, Greenbelt 3
GogoFridays at Bed, Orosa St., Malate
Soul Fridays at V Bar, Glorietta 2
Ntwine at Conway's, Peninsula Manila

### Dec. 25

(Public Holiday)
BBC's Hotel Costes - 2nd Flight, with DJ David de Barce. 10 p.m. at the M Museum Café, Greenbelt 4.

## Special Shows and Events

### ART

Ongoing till Dec. 18: Ivi Avellana-Cosio opens her latest solo exhibit of mixed media paintings at the Avellana Gallery, 2680 F.B. Harrison, Pasay. Call 833-8357.

Ongoing till Jan. 7: After the Fact, installations, paintings and collages by Juan Alcazaren, at the UP Vargas Museum. Call 928-1927.

Ongoing till Dec. 22: Counterparts, photographer Claudine Sia's exhibit on Folk Spirituality, Pinoy Catholicism, and the American Dream, at the Silver Lens Gallery, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Call 816-0044.

Ongoing till Jan. 6: The InterContinental Manila will hold a Christmas Tree Exhibit. Let some of the best names in visual arts, fashion and design surprise you with their creations.

### DANCE

Ongoing till Dec. 19: Ballet Philippines presents Peter Pan's Neverneverland, a multi-media delight which brings to life the wonderful world of mischief and mayhem, mermaids and fairies; at the CCP Main Theater. Call 551-1003 & 832-6011.

Dec. 23 to Jan. 3: Disney on Ice-Princess Classics, Araneta Coliseum, QC. Contact Ticketnet 911-5555.

### MUSIC

Dec. 18: South Border A Concert for the Children, 8 p.m. at the Fort Bonifacio Global City (fronting Home Depot). Call 891-5610.

Dec. 18: The Peninsula Manila will hold its 21st Christmas Concert at The Pen, featuring the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Ana Fegi, and Tiples de Santo Domingo. 5 p.m. at The Lobby. Call 887-2888.

Dec. 18: PopPasko, a Christmas concert at the Central Plaza of Eastwood City, featuring Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid, Luke Mijares, Kyla and Nyoy Volante.

Dec. 25: Paskoral at the Central Plaza of Eastwood City. Featuring the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Ateneo Chamber Singers, UP Concert Chorus, UST Singers, Singing Ambassadors, Monserrat Choir, and Mandaluyong Children's Choir.

Dec. 25: BBC's Hotel Costes - 2nd Flight, the return of Hotel Costes Paris resident DJ, David de Barce. 10 p.m. at the M Museum Café, Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center. Tickets at P500. For inquiries, email info@bbcmanila.com.

Jan. 1: Studio 23's SunLounge 2005, a New Year party with Singapore's DJ Rawjak and Scrambled Edge, 1 a.m. at the Rooftop of the Power Plant Mall (pass the Crustacea entrance), Rockwell, Makati.

### THEATER

Dec. 19: Repertory Philippines presents The Wizard of Oz at REP's Globe Theatre at Onstage, 2/L, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 887-0710.

Dec. 18, & 19: Trumpets presents Peter Pan and the Time Machine at the SM Megamall Cinema 10. Ticket Prices at P387 & P258 through phone 891-5610.

Dec. 18: SinagTala presents Come to the Stable, a Christmas concert and fund-raiser for Ang Arko ng Pilipinas, a home for physically and mentally challenged children. 8 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Forbes Park, Makati.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Ongoing till Dec. 18: Chocolate Nights Weekend Buffet at the Lobby of the Peninsula Manila. Friday and Saturday nights only, from 8:30 p.m. to 12 midnight. Call 887-2888.

Dec. 26-30: World Pyro Olympics, an amazing night of fireworks with ten participating countries, at the Promenade Area, Bay City, Pasay City. Call 8174099.

Ongoing till Dec. 31: Informal Art Workshops, Oil Painting (Tuesdays & Thursdays), Drawing and Advanced Oil Painting (Saturdays), Sculpture (Saturdays & Sundays). 8 sessions. Call 725-8518.

Schedules may change without prior notice. Please check with the venues for updates. For more information, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart, or log on to www.mag24-7.com. Send your schedules via e-mail editor@mag24-7.com or fax 892 0689. Vote your favorite restaurant by texting (SMS) REACT RESTO <your choice> and send to 2910 for Globe, Smart and Sun.

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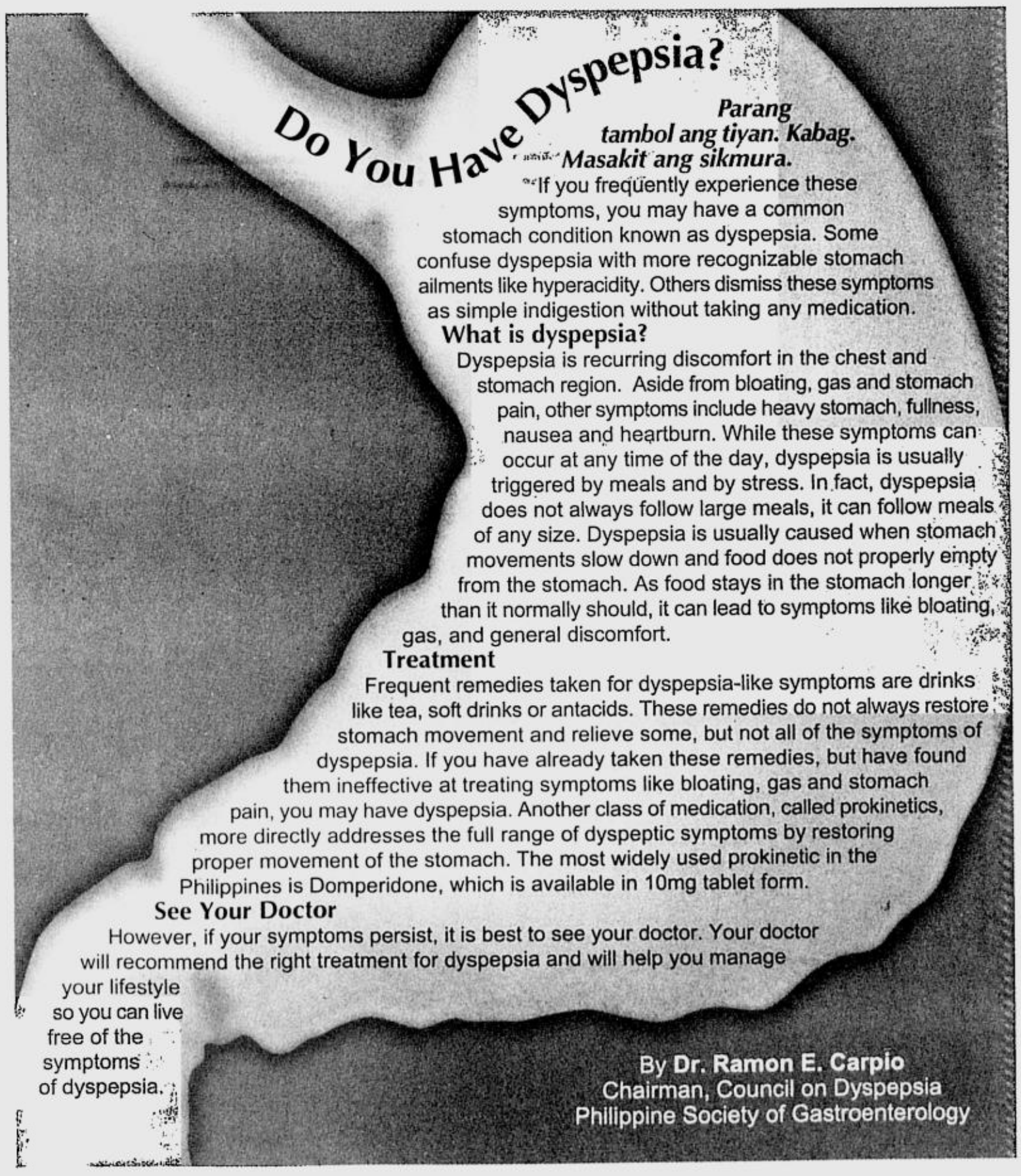


Sa Dyspepsia,

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

# The 12 GCs of Christmas

## Why don't you give GCs on Christmas day?

By Pam Pastor and Tim Yap

GOD cures. Grandma cooks. Godzilla cares. Err, maybe not the last part. But one thing's for sure, gift certificates work.

If you're not great at choosing gifts, if you don't have enough cash to buy goodies for all the people you love, if you're too busy working to dash to the mall, grab a pair of scissors and summon your clipping powers.

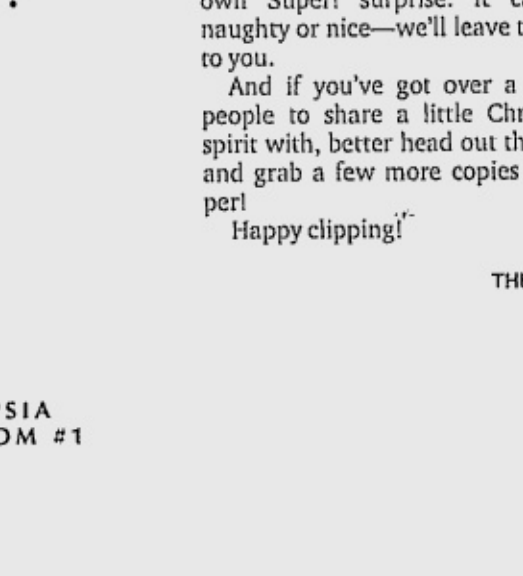
We've got twelve Super! gift certificates for you—and we even left one blank, so you could fill in your own Super! surprise. It can be naughty or nice—we'll leave that up to you.

And if you've got over a dozen people to share a little Christmas spirit with, better head out the door and grab a few more copies of Super!

Happy clipping!



DYSPEPSIA SYMPTOM #1

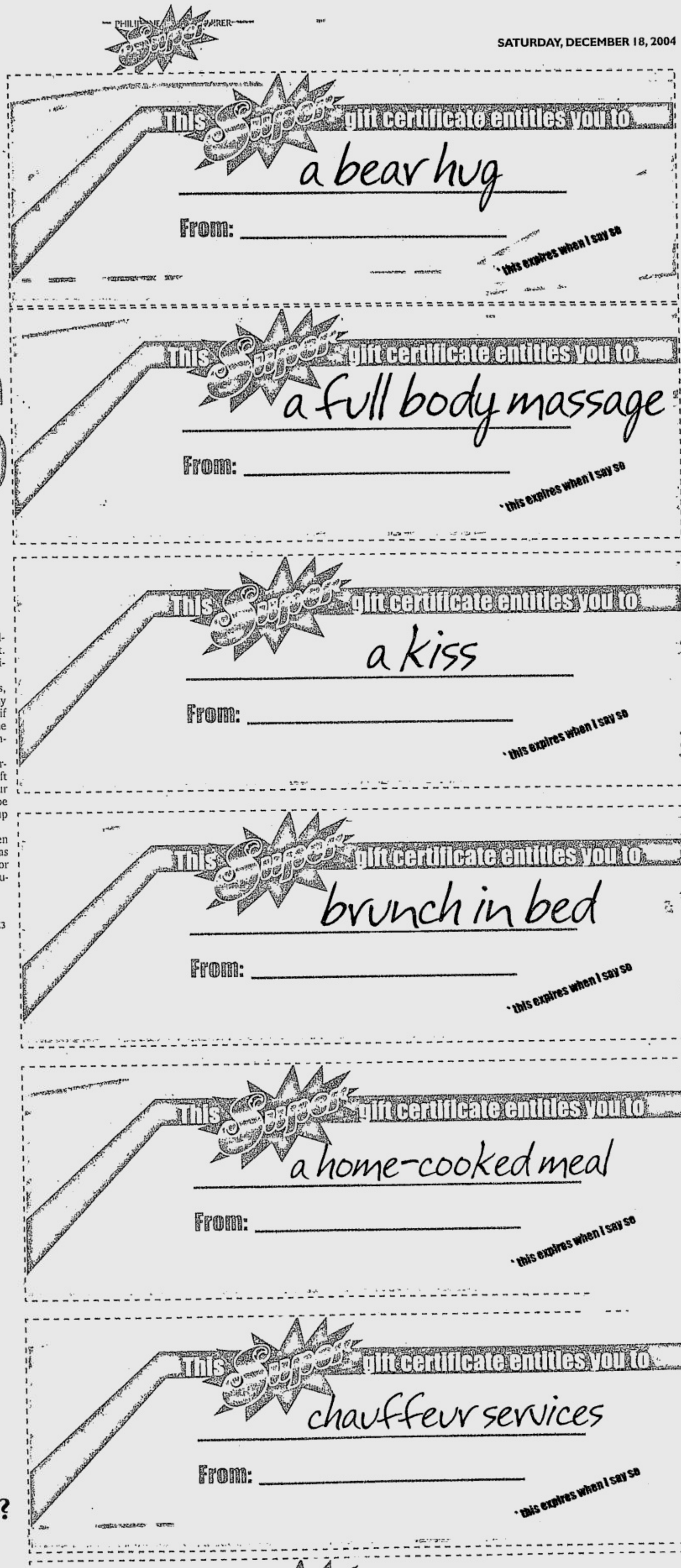


**Parang Tambol ang Tyan? Dyspepsia yan!**

Sa Dyspepsia, kadalasan, di gumagalaw ng tama ang tiyan. Di bumababa ang kinain kaya bumibigat ang pakiramdam. Para iwas Dyspepsia, Motilium muna. Ang Motilium, pinagagalaw ng tama ang tiyan hang Dyspepsia ay maiwasan.

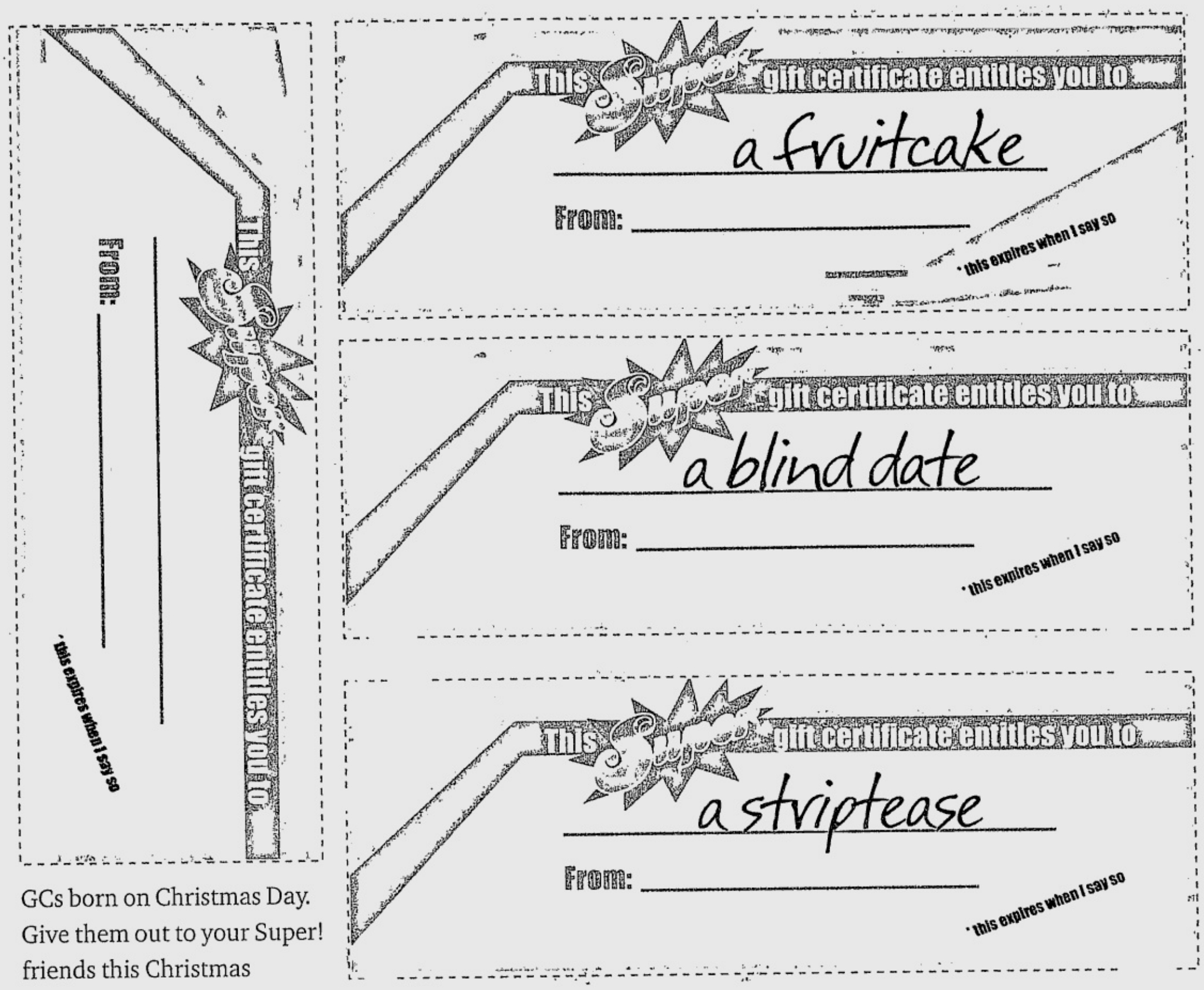
**Sa Dyspepsia,**

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.



# The 12 GCs of Christmas

From page K2




GCs born on Christmas Day.
Give them out to your Super!
friends this Christmas

DYSPEPSIA
SYMPTOM #2

Mabigat?
Parang Puno ang Tyan?
Dyspepsia yan!

Sa Dyspepsia, kadalasan, di gumagalaw ng tama ang tiyan. Di bumababa ang kinain kaya bumibigat ang pakiramdam. Para iwas Dyspepsia, Motilium muna. Ang Motilium, pinagagalaw ng tama ang tiyan nang Dyspepsia ay maiwasan.

Sa Dyspepsia,

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Dance your way to your loved ones' heart. Whisper sweet somethings to their ears. This season, giving out goodies does not have to blow your 12th month pay

DYSPEPSIA
SYMPTOM #3

Dighay ng Dighay
at Kinakabag?
Dyspepsia yan!

Sa Dyspepsia, kadalasan, di gumagalaw ng tama ang tiyan. Di bumababa ang kinain kaya bumibigat ang pakiramdam. Para iwas Dyspepsia, Motilium muna. Ang Motilium, pinagagalaw ng tama ang tiyan nang Dyspepsia ay maiwasan.

Sa Dyspepsia,

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

SMART DUTY FREE HOLIDAY EXTREME IDD PROMO

Get a chance to win brand new vehicles or hundreds of SMART Buddy phone kits when you shop at Duty Free Fiestamall.

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE TAX FREE.

MERRY PAMILYANG PINOY

SMART IDD
Pamilyang Pinoy

Every 10-minute IDD call you make this Christmas gives you back P10 worth of free load when you register to SMART Pamilyang Pinoy. Just type REG <your name>*<address>*<NA>*<NA> and send to 433.

To make an IDD call, dial + Country Code Area Code Party's Number.

What's more, you can catch your favorite celebrities at the SMART Pamilyang Pinoy Roadshow as they perform live at Fiestamall, Manila on the following dates: · December 12 with Rachelle Ann Go, Dang Cruz, Chynna Ortaleza, Tyrone Perez · December 18 and 22 with Sarah Geronimo, Mark Bautista, Dang Cruz, Chynna Ortaleza, Tyrone Perez

Free Christmas loot bags and SMART Buddy Super SIM 3 Packs upon arrival for all arriving balikbayans!

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HOLIDAY PRICE DROP! FIESTAMALL

Come to Duty Free Fiestamall and avail of prepaid phone kits at more affordable, "pasalubong" prices!

I ♡ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Celebrating The Filipino Spirit

TANDUAY

1854 - 2004

150

YEARS

THE NO. 1 RHUM

MONDE SELECTION

2004

BRUXELLES

# ISANG PASASALAMAT

Kami ay lubos na nagpapasalamat
sa lahat ng tumatangkilik ng Tanduay sa loob
ng isang daan at limampung taon.
Ang Tanduay ay naging bahagi na ng buhay
nating mga Pilipino. Sisikapin naming lalong
itaas ang kalidad ng Tanduay at panatilihing
abot-kaya ang halaga nito upang patuloy
pang magdulot ng munting ligaya sa ating
mga kababayan sa susunod pa na
isang daan at limampung taon.
Ipagpatuloy natin ang magandang samahan
ng Pilipino at Tanduay. Isang samahang
habang tumatagal, lalong sumasarap.
Mabuhay at maraming, maraming salamat po.

**Dr. Lucio C. Tan**
**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer**
**Tanduay Distillers, Inc.**

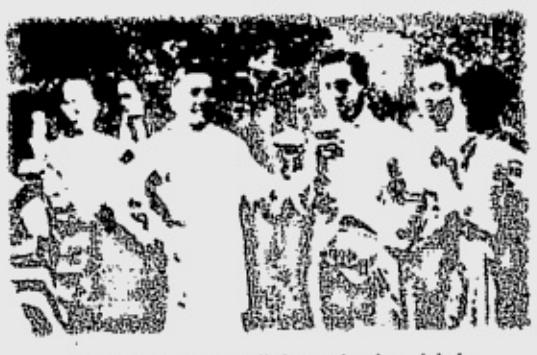
# A TOAST TO THE FILIPINO SPIRIT.

*An old map of Manila showing Isla de Tanduay (circa 1890). Tanduay Distillery is in the right corner of Isla de Tanduay*

**"History is the foundation that holds us together. The lessons we learn, the battles we win, the experiences that give us the strength of wisdom to face further challenges. This is our history...an exciting journey from the past to the future."**

**Tanduay Distillers, Inc.** prides itself in being one of very few companies able to sustain smooth operations over one and a half centuries, spanning a series of colonial domination and military invasions.

The company has been intricately woven into the rich cultural heritage of a Malay race essentially known for bravery, resiliency, dedication and distinctive family values. Collectively, these traits are called the Filipino Spirit that takes center stage in **Tanduay's** year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary.



*An old photo of Filipinos sharing drinks in a celebration.*

A part of the rich cultural heritage of the Filipinos is their drinking traditions. From a wide variety of crops, the early Filipinos had learned to make alcoholic drinks which became part, at times even the highlight, of every ritual and feast. Scattered across the Philippines and known by different names these native drinks formed an important part of the Filipino culture.

The coming of the western colonizers paved the way for liquors such as brandy, whisky and rhum to enter the Filipino sphere. Yet, the popularity of many native Filipino drinks has not waned, even today. In much the same way, **Tanduay** has kept its place in the hearts of the Filipinos - 150 years since its birth.

The name **Tanduay** traces its origin to the old tagalog word *tanguay* referring to a low-lying islet or an isthmus meaning a narrow strip of land, bordered on both sides by water, connecting two larger bodies of land.

The seed of **Tanduay** was sown sometime in 1854 when two young Spanish immigrants, Joaquin Ynchausti and Joaquin Elizalde, formed a partnership called Ynchausti y Cia. The partnership initially operated a shipping firm on the north bank of the Pasig River, then largely used as the main route of Manila's trade and commerce.

The merger soon expanded with the creation of the Manila Steamship Co. that fielded a steam-boat servicing the major islands of the archipelago.

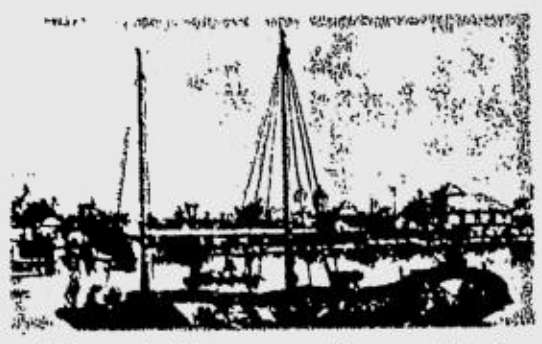
Later, a cousin of Elizalde, Valentin Teus joined the alliance, bringing in another company that owned a distillery in Hagonoy, Bulacan that would eventually be known as Tanduay Distillery.

*The Ynchausti y Cia factory in Binondo in 1931*

By the end of the 19th century, Ynchausti y Cia had expanded its operations to include abaca plantations in the Bicol Region and sugar centrals in Negros.

## TIME TO GO FULL-BLAST

**"Change. It is at once the greatest opponent and ally. It paves the way for transformation, insight, wisdom and recognition of opportunities."**



*Lithograph of the cascos, early means of trade transportation plying the Pasig River (circa 1850).*

With their sugar central and shipping business, the business partners decided it was time to shift their distillery operations to high gear. After all, they already had the essential elements of an integrated liquor-making enterprise. They had sugar as a basic raw material and a network of vessels that included flat-bottomed boats called *cascos* that ferry the raw materials and the finished products in demijohns through the esteros of Manila to the steamships anchored at the bay.

**Tanduay** placed the Philippines in the world map of the finest liquors in 1876 when it captured a gold medal at the Monde Selection held in Paris. This was followed by another gold in 1887 in the General Exposition of the Philippine Islands in Madrid, then again in 1895 in the Regional Expositions of the Philippines. Both citations were unmistakable foreboding of a fruitful century ahead.

By 1934, the name Ynchausti y Cia was changed into Elizalde and Co., Inc. when the Elizandes bought out the Ynchausti's for five million pesos. By 1936, the company's work-force had swelled to about 10,000 and its business had expanded into manufacturing of ropes, paints and waxes, broadcasting, insurance and mining.

**Tanduay Distillery** continued to be a major revenue contributor to the Elizalde business and by this time, **Tanduay** as a trademark had become so dominant that in many parts of the Philippines it became synonymous to liquor.

With the outbreak of the war in December 1942, **Tanduay Distillery** ceased operations along with the other major industries in the country. The Japanese Imperial Army took over the abandoned distillery on **Tanduay** street in Quiapo, Manila and converted it into a military base.

*Bottling and labeling of rhum (circa 1950).*

Shortly after the war, with Don Manolo at the helm, Elizalde's entire manufacturing network was immediately rehabilitated and by 1947, all subsidiaries were back in full operation, including **Tanduay Distillery** which rapidly picked up and regained stability. By the 1950's **Tanduay** was the only distillery in the Philippines that grew its own sugarcane and did its own distilling.

The company's first main product was ***Tanduay Rhum Dark, 80 proof***, introduced in the 1960's and instantly became the best-selling local rhum brand at the time. During the early 70's ***Tanduay ESQ***, the first ***65 proof*** rhum here and abroad was launched and immediately became an instant hit among rhum aficionados because of its smooth taste and competitive price.

**Tanduay** products continued to be a favorite among Filipino drinkers and became the largest selling rhum in the Philippines.

# 150 Years Of Celebrating The Filipino Spirit.

## 1854-2004

# A NEW ERA DAWNS ON TANDUAY.

**"If you have accomplished all that you have planned, you have not planned enough."**
**Dr. Lucio C. Tan**

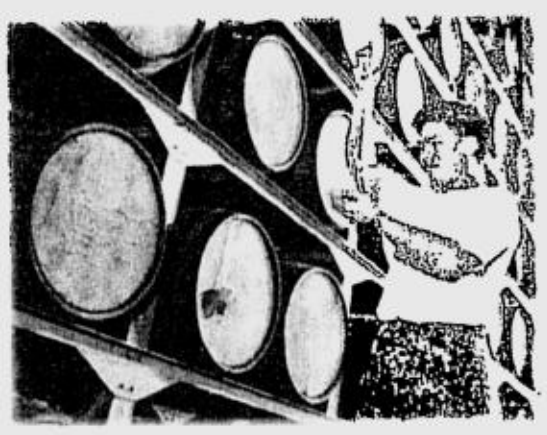
**Tanduay's** colored life went through another revolution from within in July 1988 when Dr. Lucio Tan, revered as one of the pillars of Philippine industry, bought the company in what the media described as the "biggest corporate buyout" at the time. The momentous event came as the dawning of a new era for the company, demanding much bolder and more decisive steps towards larger marketing horizons.

*Dr. Tan in a meeting with company employees*

With his hands-on management style, the new owner easily struck awe and respect among the men and women of the distillery, and it paid off in handsome dividends of loyalty and efficiency among the workforce. Mr. Wilson Young, president and chief operating officer, is said to have the same approachable traits that made him part of the **Tanduay** psyche, along with a subculture of corporate discipline and industry.

Dr. Tan, known to his inner circle as "Kapitan," spared no expense to make **Tanduay** internationally competitive. The innovations included the installation of state-of-the-art production machineries and the establisment of two new plants to increase the production capacity. In 1991, the Cabuyao Plant started operations, followed by the Negros Plant in 1995.

*Aerial view of Tanduay's manufacturing plant.*



*Oak Barrel Farm*

Additional alcohol-ageing facilities were set-up in Parañaque, Cabuyao and Negros to augment the existing one in Quiapo. Quite naturally, with more cases of rhum turned out by its modern factories the need for a more expansive network of sales outlets arose. This too, did not escape the keen vision of the forward looking *taipan*.

The modernization and expansion program under Dr. Tan immediately bore fruit. **Tanduay** increased daily production capacity from 2,000 cases under the previous owners to a thousand fold. In only five years from its acquisition in 1988, **Tanduay** broke into the elite top ten spirit sellers of the world and became the second largest rhum producer, next to Bacardi of Puerto Rico.

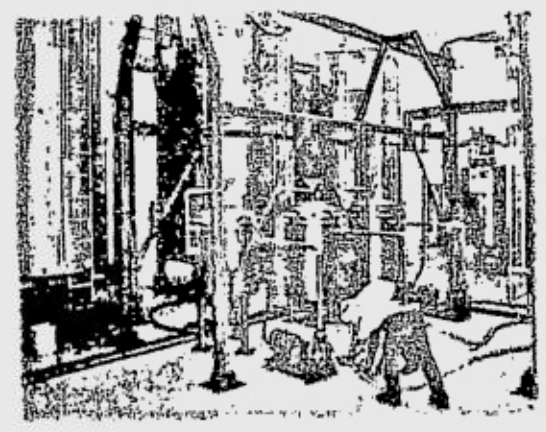
**Tanduay** started the new millenium wearing a new corporate cloak, as the year before, the company was listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange. As a listed company, **Tanduay** now is in a better position to raise more capital and attract strategic business partners - necessary ingredients to becoming a global company.

Yet, this corporate move also entailed new challenges and added responsibilities. Underscoring the significance of this milestone, Dr. Tan said, "Once Tanduay goes public, its corporate life will never be the same again. Transparency is expected of us and we are ready for it."

## ONE WORLD. ONE SPIRIT

**"Tanduay's history is like discovering a barrel of matured rhum, aged to perfection and never to be forgotten. It is a history that evolves as Tanduay pursues its commitment to develop quality products and elevate Tanduay's stature in the world market."**

Tanduay continued to garner top awards in various exhibitions and competitions abroad in the 20th century. All told, the company presently holds a total of 111 medals and citations given by prestigious international organizations.



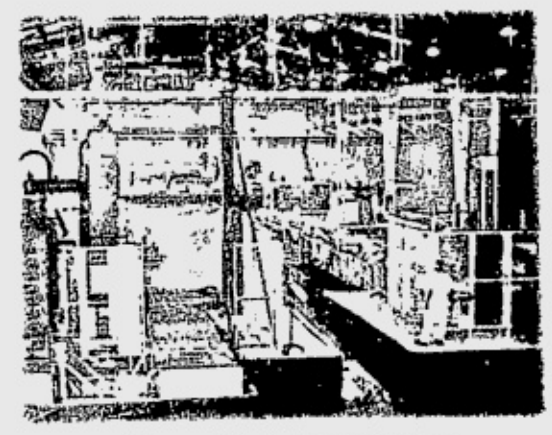
*Modern Compounding Plant*

Lending additional dimensions to this year's observance of Tanduay's sesquicentennial year were four medal-awards capped at the 42nd World Selection of Spirits and Liquors held last May under the aegis of the Monde Selection in Brussels.

*Señor Faustino Munarriz, Tanduay's master blender and Mr. Wilson Young, Tanduay president, presenting the medals in the 2004 Monde Selection to Ambassador To the Netherlands Romeo Arguilles.*

Commenting on the company's latest achievements, Young said, **"Tanduay**, as a truly Filipino product stands up high with world-renowned brands and serves as a testament that the Filipino can compete against the world's best and be a class of its own, once inherent Filipino positive values are sufficiently nurtured."

For his part, Dr. Tan described this year's sesquicentennial celebration as a "great milestone" and added that only a few companies can last for 150 years. "We are proud that we are part of this rare achievement. At the same time, we are also challenged to continue **Tanduay's** rich tradition



*State-of the-art Bottling Line*

for another 150 years", the Kapitan said. Dr. Tan vowed to continue providing the market with excellent yet affordable products.

"In celebrating the Filipino spirit we must uphold the spirit of great benevolence and generosity and share with the less fortunate what we have" - Dr. Tan emphasized.

To reciprocate consumer patronage and loyalty, **Tanduay**, as a responsible corporate citizen, has been actively supporting projects in education, culture and sports, health and social welfare.

For the next 150 years, Dr. Tan sees **Tanduay** as a major worldwide supplier of rhum and other spirits. "We are now on our way to becoming a global brand. As we say in our corporate advertisement - One World, One Spirit - we now have set the stage to conquer the world."

**"Founded on a rich heritage buoyed by more than a century of creative innovation and foresight, Tanduay has the spirit to soar to heights of excellence."**



*Tan Yan Kee Foundation works for the Future of Filipino Children through its program in support of Education.*

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
### MALACAÑANG

My most cordial felicitations to the Tanduay Distillers, Inc. as you celebrate your 150th Anniversary.

The numerous awards that were bestowed upon you by various international organizations affirm your company's status as a world-class enterprise. Your remarkable journey to fame should inspire other Filipino companies to pursue the same prominence and stature in both local and global markets.

This year's theme, "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit" is a fitting tribute to the honor, bravery and resiliency of Filipinos particularly in the light of recent calamities. Tanduay is a living witness to our country's political and social transformations. It outlasted every revolution, withstood all ups and downs, and endured the market while carrying on a tradition of product excellence.

Let the Filipino spirit guide us in our struggle to beat the odds and ensure a better quality of life for our people. I wish you more success and may God's blessings warm your hearts this Christmas.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

H.E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO

## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Malugod kong binabati ang Tanduay sa ika-150 Taon ng Pagkakatatag nito.

Masasabi kong iilan lamang sa mga kumpanyang Pilipino ang may kakayahang lumago at tumagal ng ganoon kahabang panahon, at ang Tanduay ay kabilang sa mga negosyong ito na nagtataglay ng pinakamahabang serbisyo sa publiko at sa bansa.

Masasabi ko ring ang Tanduay na kilalang-kilala natin, gayundin sa ibang bansa, ay bahagi na ng tradisyong Pilipino tuwing may pagtitipon, maliit man o malaki ang grupo na nagdiriwang. Parang hindi kumpleto ang okasyon kapag walangTanduay na pinagsasaluhan ng magkakamag-anak o magkakaibigan.

Ngunit higit sa lahat, ang Tanduay ay naging simbolo na ng tibay, tiyaga, sipag, at pagpupunyagi ng lahing Pilipino. Ito ay bunga ng kakayahan ng Tanduay na harapin at lampasan ang anumang krisis sa ekonomiya. Ang lakas at tibay ng Tanduay ay nagmumula sa matatag na pundasyon nito na ginawa may 150 taon na ngayon.

Ang pagsalin ng Tanduay sa kasalukuyang pamunuan na pinangungunahan ni Dr. Lucio C. Tan, kilala rin sa bansag na El Kapitan, ay nagdulot ng ibayong tatag at tibay sa pundasyon ng kumpanya upang tumagal ito ng marami pang siglo.

Muli, maligayang pagbati sa ika-150 Taon ng Tanduay.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO
**Bise Presidente ng Republika ng Pilipinas**

## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
## SENATE

"A good general rule is to state that bouquet is better than the taste, and vice versa." - Stephon Potter, One-Upmanship.

Short of endorsing a local vintage company, I dare say that Tanduay Rhum is imbibing in the sweet taste of success and the essence of permanence.

Notching 150 years of excellence in fine liquor-making, Tanduay now looks forward to greater heights of achievement without losing sight of excellence in both administration and production departments over the next 150 years. Excellence has been the company's trademark that propelled its flight over the sales charts and across territorial boundaries to garner medals of recognition being granted by prestigious international organizations.

As a Filipino citizen, I feel a deep sense of personal pride that a Filipino company can carve its own niche and establish its rightful place in the highly competitive global market. With the advent of borderless economies, we need to have many Tanduays that can compete with the world's best and withstand the tests of time: unyeilding and uncompromising even under the most severe economic and political conditions.

As a political leader, I am personally grateful for Tanduay's corporate commitment to reciprocate popular patronage through social services, educational and medical assistance to the underprivileged, and poverty alleviation.

Mabuhay!

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
**Senate President**

## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I congratulate Tanduay on the celebration of its 150th anniversary. This milestone of longevity in commerce and manufacturing comes as a shining moment at a time our country calls for the wholehearted support of all sectors to overcome many challenges and move forward.

Your theme "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit" captures our need to marshall our common strengths as a nation an d use these pillars of long-term prosperity and lasting peace. In this light, Tanduay symbolizes the endurance of the Filipino spirit and its underlying values of creativity, resilience, honor, bravery, enterprise, love for family and respect for elders.

The excellence of Tanduay's products in the national and international markets attests to the Filipino's ability to set world-class standards and compete in a global environment. I salute the men and women who have contributed to the leadership and success of Tanduay for over a century and a half.

Let's all drink to Tanduay's enduring spirit and the Filipino's unsinkable nature. May your company thrive and prosper further!

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
**Speaker of the House**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
## PHILIPPINES

My warmest greetings to the management and staff of the TANDUAY Distillers, Inc. as you celebrate your 150th Anniversary on 18 December 2004.

This event is a strong manifestation of TANDUAY'S resilience to withstand and prevail over the challenges of times. As one of the success stories in the local front, the company serves as an excellent model and inspiration for the business community to continue strengthening their competence to meet market demands. I take this opportunity to encourage you to constantly expand your creativity through aggressive product innovation and topnotch customer service, which for years have been the trademark of TANDUAY. In this highly competitive business environment, a positive, vigilant and assertive response to market dynamism is required as a strategy to conquer the opportunities that abound. I look forward to the continuing success of TANDUAY'S operations in the country as a shining testimony to the success of the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit.

Again, my sincere congratulations to TANDUAY and best wishes on your anniversary. Mabuhay!

CESAR V. PURISIMA
**Secretary**

## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mabuhay!

The City of Manila proudly joins Tanduay Distillers, Inc. in celebrating its 150th year as a world-class Filipino corporation.

Through the years, the people of Manila have witnessed the evolution of Tanduay into the leading manufacturer of quality rum worldwide, bringing pride and distinction to the Philippines.

Like the city that continues to host it, Tanduay has weathered social upheavals - including a world war - as well as economic difficulties, in its one hundred fifty years of existence.

We are also glad that Tanduay, in celebrating its 150th anniversary, has chosen as its theme "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit." This theme mirrors the positive values that Filipinos in general and Manileños in particular have become accustomed to.

It is our hope that Tanduay would continue to prosper in the future as it had done in the past one hundred fifty years.

Congratulations and more power!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
**City Mayor**

## TANDUAY DISTILLERY LABOR UNION

Isang wagas at maalab na pagbati mula sa puso ng uring manggagawa ang pinaabot sa pangasiwaan ng Tanduay Distillers, Inc. sa kanyang makulay at makasaysayang pagdiriwang ng ika-150 taong Anibersaryo sa ika-18 ng Disyembre 2004. Ang maigting na suporta at pagtangkilik mula sa inyong mga manggagawa ay lubusang maasahan ng sa gayon ang inyong mga magandang balakin at adhikain sa patuloy na daluyong sa pag-unlad at kasaganaan ng kompanya ay kagyat na makamtan.

Ang pagbating ito ay nagbibigay pugay at pagkilala sa mga taong nag lilok sa pagsulong at pag-unlad ng kompanya sa gitna ng mga patinding bigwas at hagupit ng lokal at pang-daigdigan krisis sa ekonomiya. Naririyan ang ating Mr. Wilson T. Young, Chief Operating Officer at sa patnubay at gabay ng ating "Kapitan" Lucio Tan.

Tanduay Distillers, Inc. sumulong ka, humayo ka at tahakin ang landas ng tagumpay. Mabuhay ang Tanduay Distillers, Inc., Mabuhay ang Kapisanan, Mabuhay tayong lahat.

Salamat sa Dakilang Maykapal!

BENJAMIN C. AGALOOS
**Pangulo**

# MESSAGES

## PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

On behalf of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), I would like to extend my congratulatory greetings to Tanduay Distillers, Inc. for their 150th anniversary. Being 150 years old and still going strong is a great achievement by itself and the PCCI can't help but be extremely proud that Tanduay is one of our members.

As Tanduay has distinctly shown us, progressive corporations do not grow old. Like aged wine, they mellow with time, becoming wiser, stronger and bolder in facing new challenges of an ever-changing trade and commerce.

Tanduay's track record in durability, flexibility and adaptability to frequent changes in the economic environment will serve as an undying inspiration for other Filipino corporations.

*Mabuhay ang Tanduay Distillers, Inc.!*

NOEMI L. SALUDO
**President**

## FEDERATION OF FILIPINO - CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC.

Congratulations to Tanduay Distillers, Inc. on its 150th Year Anniversary. Tanduay has many reasons to celebrate this milestone. From its birth in the middle of 19th century, Tanduay Distillers has withstood the test of time and has become part of Filipino heritage. Tanduay products have earned worldwide recognition and have served as symbols of Filipino culture and tradition through the years.

Celebrating the Filipino Spirit is a very appropriate and timely theme for Tanduay's celebration this year. Promoting Filipino values of honor, honesty, hard work and perseverance will give Filipinos the resilience we need to rise above the many challenges we face. Tanduay's long and continued success is a living testimony of these values' true worth.

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. joins Tanduay Distillers, Inc. in this glorious celebration of the Filipino Spirit. Mabuhay!

ROBIN C. SY
**President**

## EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

A nation's strength depends a great deal on its workforce. We cannot talk about national productivity without the workers manning our factories. For this reason, it is extremely crucial for management to forge mutual trust and confidence with its employees as an enduring foundation for industrial peace and stability. Tanduay Distillers, Inc. has been known for setting the pace in terms of harmony and tranquility at the workplace. This enviable distinction appears to have been borne out of Dr. Lucio C. Tan's philosophy to give workers the widest latitude for self-determination in accordance with the dictates of industrial democracy. While the primordial obligation of management is to ensure the growth and welfare of the company, it should also look after the well-being of its partners in production, the labor force. Tanduay, I believe, has not been remiss in this aspect. After 150 years of existence, Tanduay is still a force to reckon with insofar as establishing a climate for an ideal and strong cooperative employee-employer relationship is concerned. On behalf of ECOP, I congratulate the management and employees of Tanduay for having attained another milestone in their collaborative partnership, which is an important ingredient to the sustained growth of the company, in particular, and the country's economy as a whole.

RENE Y. SORIANO
**President**

## INTERNATIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Over the past 150 years, Tanduay continues its commitment to providing world-class rhum at affordable prices. Consumers have reciprocated with unwavering loyalty to its products.

Tanduay has been a toast, both in and outside the Philippines, for its exacting adherence to excellence. The Company's over 100 medals and awards given by prestigious international organizations are a recognition of its adherence to excellence. This year, to further highlight the Company's observance of its 150th anniversary, four more awards were received in Brussels, Belgium at the 42nd World Selection of Spirits and Liquors sponsored by the Monde Selection.

Truly, Tanduay has earned the right to be labeled "The Best Among the Best" and I am extremely proud that it is 100 percent Filipino.

I also salute the Company for having aptly chosen the theme, "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit" for this joyous occasion. More power!

RIZALINO S. NAVARRO
**Chairman**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission, let me extend my warmest greetings to Tanduay Distillers, Inc. on the occasion of its 150th year anniversary.

An existence spanning a century and a half is enough cause for a celebration. What makes this occasion a feat is that Tanduay Distillers, Inc. is an all-Filipino company and for years is among the top corporations of the Philippines.

We share your theme for this momentous occasion - *Celebrating the Filipino Spirit*. At the present time and at all times, for that matter, our personal and commercial actions should be guided by such Filipino values as honor, honesty, hardwork, perseverance, and resiliency.

It is also gratifying to note, and well-deserving of our support, that Tanduay Distillers, Inc. is training its sight on the international arena, where excellence is a key criterion for survival. Congratulations and wishing you more fruitful years to come!

FE BARIN
**Chairperson**

## REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

"The toughest thing about success is that you have to keep on being successful." Irving Berlin (1888-1989), one of the greatest American lyricists of all time, appeared to have written this famous line with Tanduay Distillers, Inc. in mind. Indeed, success has no end, just a beginning, and Tanduay is showing us what it's all about. There are only a few companies in the Philippines which can last 150 years and still keep getting stronger and better. Tanduay's success and resiliency result from many things, with having a good management team and a policy of continuous satisfaction of changing consumer needs among its strongest points. We commend Tanduay for choosing "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit" as the theme for the year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary. It is the same spirit of patriotism and love of country that we want to promote and uphold to enable us to rise above our present difficulties. Tanduay has shown the way on how to be a responsible corporate citizen. Today, more than ever, our country needs all the support from everyone to attain economic stability and accelerate nation-building. Tanduay's success is also our success. Let's toast to another 150 years of excellence for Tanduay.

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, JR.
**Commissioner of Internal Revenue**

## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

Warmest felicitation to the management and the rank and file of Tanduay Distillers, Inc. Having reached the 150-year mark is an epic feat by itself, attained by the dint of hard work and the unending struggle for excellence. Quite expectedly, TDI is now the object of envy by equally situated companies, which are still negotiating the long and winding road to success. Going global in the 21st century is the only way for larger corporations to survive. In this aspect, the Bureau of Customs plays a crucial role - manning the ramparts of our seaports and airports and keeping vigilant against the entry of unwanted goods.

Tanduay, we have been told, has embarked on a vigorous marketing campaign in the world market. As we begin the new millenium, the government which the Bureau of Customs represents encourages this kind of adventurism. We are confident that Tanduay, one of the oldest local corporations, will also succeed in this new endeavor, as it has done so many times in its glorious past. Good luck and happy 150th anniversary. Mabuhay.

GEORGE M. JEREOS
**Commissioner**

## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS

In behalf of the Bureau of Food and Drugs, I wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Tanduay Distillers, Inc. in observance of their 150th Anniversary.

I commend you for all your untiring efforts in building your Company as one of the most progressive Filipino firms today, as proven by the numerous awards and citations you garnered in international competitions. "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit"is truly a fitting theme for this glorious occasion.

Now, we see the unfolding of another episode in the Tanduay saga that has so far spanned 150 years, as your Company has embarked on another adventure; this time to give the traditional world leaders in liquor production a run for their money.

Let me ask you to continue being a vital partner of the Bureau in ensuring the quality and safety of the products that you provide to our countrymen.

Again, my sincere congratulations!

PROF. LETICIA-BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, MS
**Director**

## CENTER FOR ALCOHOL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

C.A.R.D.

Today, Tanduay Distillers, Inc. officially closes another chapter in its history. At the same time, it opens another era perceived to be more challenging and more daunting yet expectedly more rewarding. Towards this end, CARD puts its official duties as a non-government arm for research and development to the back burner in favor of the more patriotic obligation of rallying behind a Filipino corporation's campaign in the international arena. We can do nothing less, because its success will also be our victory as a nation, its downfall a national setback in globalization. This is because through the ages, Tanduay has become a symbol of the Filipino's struggle to reach greater heights and quite unerringly, it has been attaining its corporate objectives. Tanduay's 150th anniversary theme "Celebrating the Filipino Spirit" is *double-entendre*. One refers to its world-class liquors that have been a byword among Filipino consumers; the other connotes the fine qualities of our race that make us proud Filipinos. Either way, the theme underscores the fact there is so much to be thankful for on this great occassion. Let's drink to that. Congratulations and *mabuhay*.

Dr. CESAR R. BAUTISTA
**Chairman**

■ Entertainment / A2-1
How FPJ 'pursued' a pregnant leading lady who couldn't say no

■ Sunday Biz / B4
Profile of the social conscience of 4 former CEOs

■ Lifestyle / D1
Gift Gate, Smart team up for one-of-a-kind museum

■ Metro / A22
UP Lantern Parade: One like no other

JOB Market
Check out 2,300 job vacancies


## In Havana, it's beginning to look a bit like Christmas

HAVANA—Here are the holiday sights on America's favorite communist island: A billboard of an American Marine pointing his rifle at the head of a child with the words, "Merry Christmas;" an image of US soldiers torturing Iraqi

IN HAVANA/ A21


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS


## RP K9 team on the ready for search, rescue missions

By Joan Orendain
*Contributor*

"SEARCH and rescue dogs can scent a human body 100 feet vertically, and 100 feet horizontally"—up, down and sideways. "In the water, they scent at a minimum of 40 feet. Some are known to scent up to a hundred feet."

RP K9 TEAM/ A21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Sunday, December 19, 2004 ★★ 116 pages / 17 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 11 P18

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# 'Don't exploit FPJ burial'

## *Pimentel also warns GMA not to suppress fans' emotional rage*

By Michael Lim Ubac and Fe Zamora

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday called on the fans and followers of the late Fernando Poe Jr. not to allow themselves to be used as "pawns in a political game."

Pimentel predicted a "very volatile" situation on Dec. 22, the day of Poe's burial, as a result of the great number of mourners expected to join the funeral march from the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City to the North Cemetery in Manila.

He warned that the mourners could "get out of control for emotional reasons," and that opportunists within and outside the opposition might use the occasion to grab power.

Pimentel said it was incumbent upon the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo not to mishandle the situation. He said any form of suppression during the burial could have dire consequences on the Malacañang occupant.

Speaking at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum, he urged his colleagues in the opposition "to maintain calm and to discipline our ranks so that we will not be infiltrated by other elements who might have their own personal agenda."

But now everybody seems to want a piece of the man they called "Da King."

His daughter, Mary Grace

DON'T/ A8

RAFFY LERMA

JUST BETWEEN KINGS: "The King of Comedy" Dolphy with partner Zsa Zsa Padilla pay their last respects to the "King of Philippine Movies" Fernando Poe Jr. on Saturday. Dolphy actively campaigned for Poe during the tempestuous presidential election and stuck by his side though there were strong indications his home TV studio was pressuring him to switch political allegiance.

# 'Simbang Gabi' now in US, keeps Filipinos sleepless in Seattle

By Suzanne Goloy-Lanot
*Contributor*

BREMERTON, Washington—From its humble roots in the Philippines, the *Simbang Gabi* has been celebrated sporadically among Filipino communities throughout the United States. Now it is observed in its grandeur and pageantry as part of the Advent devotion in the archdiocese of Seattle.

Parishes are encouraged to celebrate it, following a standard liturgy, including music and readings. Here it is a sacred ritual of lights, symbolized by the *parol*, which the Archbishop of Seattle, the Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett, refers to as the Light of Christ.

On Dec. 17, 1997, on the eve of his installation, the archbishop celebrated the first *simbang gabi* and was so moved by the experience, he has since encouraged the entire archdiocese to participate in it.

Spearheaded by 27 parishes, the novena now involves over 80 parishes, including those without any Filipino members. Parish coordinators confer with the archdiocese and the schedule of Masses throughout western Washington is disseminated through community publications and websites.

Like a crusade, the archdiocese tries to get more parishes involved every year.

The archdiocese of Seattle, home to people from different countries and cultures, has dominion over 10 deaneries that encompass over 160 parishes throughout western Washington. My parish, Holy Trinity, as well as the Our Lady, Star of the Sea and five other parishes and two mission churches, comprise the Olympic Deanery.

The first novena Mass is called the Commissioning Mass, during which the archbishop commissions the parish coordinators to return to their parishes and commence the novena. Parishes within the deaneries then take turns in hosting the *simbang gabi* until the remaining eight novena Masses have been completed.

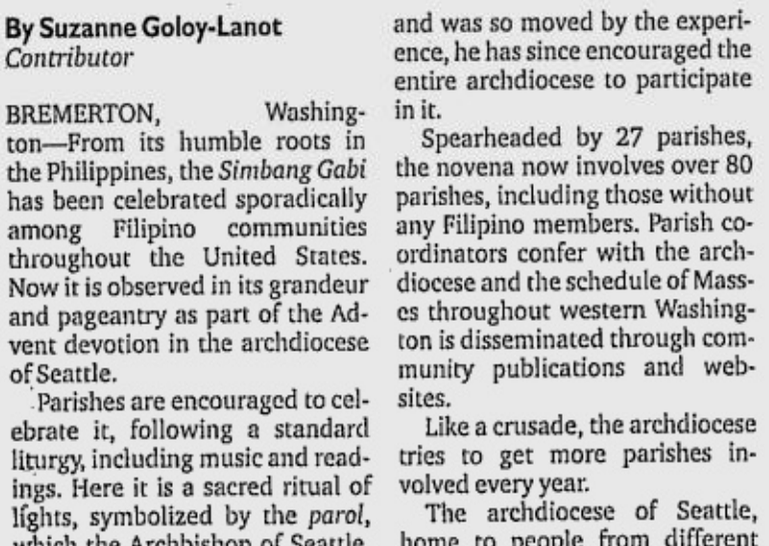
Because the vitality and significance of *simbang gabi* in the community has grown, the first Mass is now celebrated at St. James Cathedral in Seattle, the center for cultural and ecumenical events.

When I lived in the Philippines, I rarely attended the *simbang gabi*. But now, even on a stormy night and after a long day at

SIMBANG/ A21

A DAZZLING array of "parols" lights the way toward the sanctuary of the 100-year-old St. James Cathedral on the first day of the nine-day Simbang Gabi in Seattle celebrated by Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett.

# Old foes now fight for common cause



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

THE HUNTED Luis Taruc (right) and the hunter Gen. Antonio Villanueva (ret.) meet 50 years later to help in the greening of the motherland.

By Volt Contreras

IT WAS some 50 years ago that a young lieutenant with the Army Scout Rangers and the leader of a peasant-based guerrilla force each led a band of men to finish off the other in the lush jungles of Luzon.

The now graying warriors met for the first time just last month. By sheer coincidence, both had enlisted for a campaign to revive the vanishing forests where they were once hunter and hunted.

Retired Gen. Antonio G. Villanueva, 76, and legendary Huk chief Luis M. Taruc, 91, had known each other only by name—until the unforgettable evening of Nov. 19 at the home of environment conservation advocate Odette Alcantara in Blue Ridge, Quezon City.

It was to have been just another meeting of Alcantara's group, Mother Earth Philippines, for a project with then newly appointed "forest czar" Victor Corpus, himself a retired general and a former rebel.

Villanueva arrived first, accompanied by another green advocate, Unesco Commissioner Leonarda Camacho. Taruc showed up later in the company of freelance filmmaker Dik Trofeo, who was doing a documentary on him.

Until the two men were introduced to each other, no one in the gathering had any idea that they had once been enemies in combat.

Trofeo recalled the momentous meeting:

Taruc, when told by Alcantara that Villanueva used to be with the Air Force, recognized the name and told the latter: "You were among those hunting us down."

And Villanueva quietly replied: "Actually, we were the ones who feared you."

The two men then shook hands, then came to an embrace.

Alcantara later confided to the INQUIRER how she could not hold back her tears at the sight of the two ex-adversaries; she had to excuse herself pretending she had something to do in the kitchen.

In interviews last Thursday at Alcantara's home, Taruc and Villanueva both came across as men of war who had decided to devote their remaining years waging peaceful battles in reforestation and agriculture.

"Running priest" Roberto

OLD FOES/ A8

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/12/19/04

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

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# Second FRONTPAGE

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# Tunnel repair to cost ₱300M

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

**A 13-KILOMETER-LONG tunnel in Quezon province that supplies water to Metro Manila will cost P300 million to repair after it was wrecked by the recent storms.**

The repair work could last until June but supplies of water in Metro Manila might suffer disruptions until July both because of the damage to the tunnel and the possible effects of El Niño, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System administrator Orlando Hondrade said.

Thwarted by bad weather in her previous attempts to visit the area, President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday was finally able to inspect the damaged Umiray-Angat Transbasin Tunnel in General Nakar after the clouds broke.

## Lake water for Manila

She said the repair of the tunnel was a top priority but the government was also tapping Laguna Lake as a permanent source of potable water for Metro Manila.

"I finally was able to find an opening in the clouds to visit Umiray and this is a priority effort in our rehabilitation efforts to assure Metro Manila and the urban gateway of Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog of continuing clean water," Ms Arroyo said.

She gave the news in a speech yesterday at Villamor Airbase, where she received $1 million worth of relief goods from the United States, including tents, generators, blankets, medical supplies and water containers. *(See related story on this page.)*

## Sharing the costs

Hondrade said in his report that, without Umiray water from January to June, there could be a 5 to 10 percent reduction in water supply to Metro Manila and zero allocation for irrigation water to the National Irrigation Administration.

If the flow of water from Umiray is restored, there might still be a need to maintain a 5 percent MWSS water reduction starting June, he said.

Of the P300 million needed for repairs, Hondrade said P60 million had been sourced from the MWSS and the private concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad, which shelled out P20 million each.

The rest of the cost will be covered by insurance, he said.

The tunnel, which diverts water from the Umiray River to Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan, accounts for 20 to 30 percent of Angat's water reserves.

## Clearing operation

Angat supplies the potable water needs of 97 percent of Metro Manila's estimated 10 to 12 million residents, as well as irrigation water for farms in Bulacan and Pampanga.

The tunnel originally cost P2 billion to construct but Hondrade said its worth had increased to P6 billion prior to the damage.

Earlier on Friday, an advance party of the Presidential Security Group made an aerial survey of the Quezon mountain ranges but was forced to turn back due to zero visibility.

The PSG advised Ms Arroyo not to push through with her trip but she asked to try again and was able to reach the area around 3 p.m., Cabinet Officer for Provincial Events Conrado Limcaoco said.

Ms Arroyo directed Hondrade to speed up the clearing operation at the tunnel.

Hondrade told reporters the entire length of the tunnel was possibly clogged with boulders, logs and debris unleashed by the three storms and a typhoon that hit Luzon from mid-November to early this month.

## Road still impassable

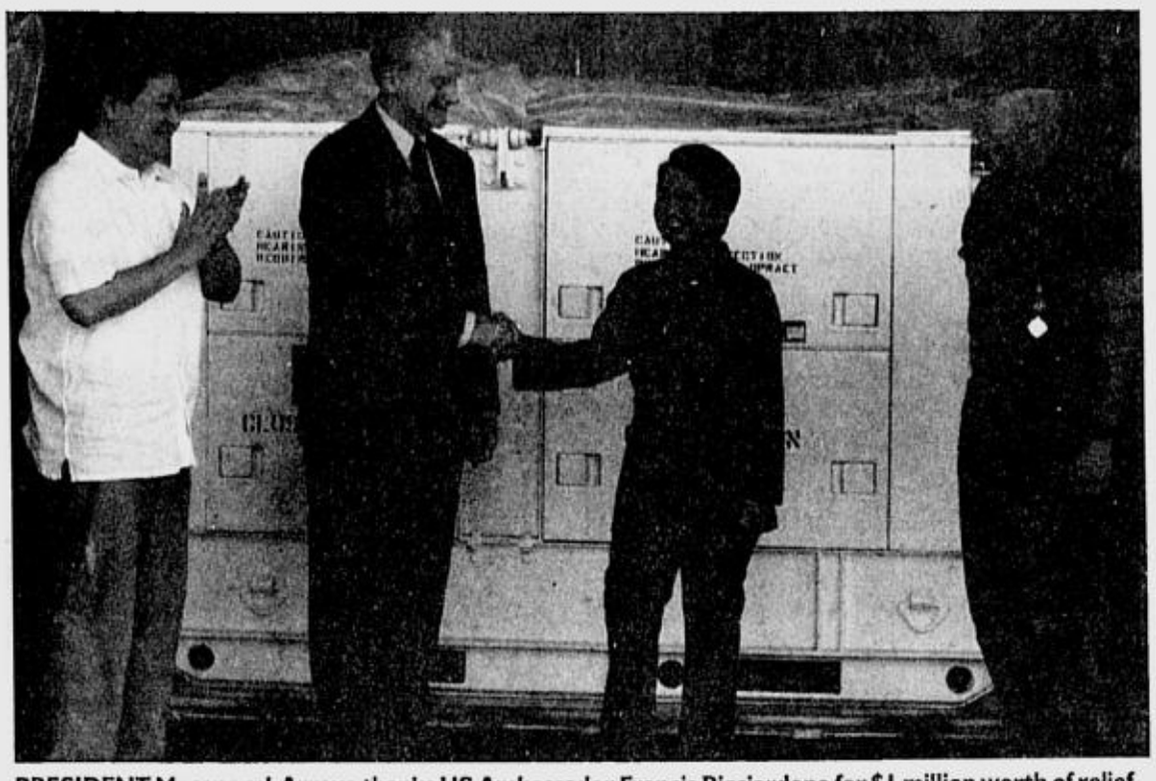
He said the 5.5-km access road remained impassable due to 31 landslides and that the 5 x 30-meter-long concrete bridge leading to the tunnel outlet was totally washed out, along with all bunkhouses.

MWSS and military equipment were lost in the floods, he said.

Manila has received close to P100 million in cash, emergency rations and equipment from the international community, including foreign non-government organizations.

International aid agencies continued to appeal for support to combat potential disease outbreaks in flood-stricken areas, saying that more than $8 million in additional aid was needed during the next three months.

Illegal logging has been blamed for the disaster.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo thanks US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone for $1 million worth of relief supplies to typhoon victims in ceremonies held at Villamor Air Base. Looking on are Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz (left) and US Brig. Gen. Kenneth Glueck. The supplies included tents, generators, medical supplies, blankets and water containers. ROGER MARGALLO

# Thanks for your help, GMA tells US troops

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

THE UNITED States yesterday wrapped up disaster relief operations in the Philippines after extending $7 million in assistance to the victims of the recent storms and typhoons that left more than 1,000 people dead and another 1,000 missing.

In ceremonies held yesterday at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, President Macapagal-Arroyo thanked the US government for its assistance, the single biggest contribution by a foreign government, to the calamity victims.

## Speed, depth

"The speed and depth of relief, valued at $7 million, making up the biggest contribution by an individual foreign government to our relief efforts, speaks of the mighty ties that are shared by time-honored allies across the Pacific," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said the US also gave a $.5-million cash donation for the rehabilitation of the disaster-stricken areas in Luzon.

During the ceremonies, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone turned over $1 million worth of relief goods to the President for the typhoon victims.

Ricciardone said future US assistance would go to rehabilitation work to improve the governance and management of the Philippines' forest and coastal resources.

"You simply must succeed in your programs, before you irretrievably lose your forest and fisheries to greed, ignorance, criminality and the pressures of an ever-expanding population," he said.

Officials have blamed unabated logging for the massive floods and landslides.

## Rescue, relief

Ms Arroyo also thanked the US troops for their help in the rescue and relief operations.

"I commend you as I commend the soldiers of our own Armed Forces, who crossed the perilous plains and mountains on foot, wading in strong currents to save the people from hunger and death," Ms Arroyo said.

More than 900 US Marines, Navy, Army and Air Force personnel, backed by 13 helicopters and C-130 cargo planes, were deployed in the typhoon-ravaged areas. The relief mission started on Dec. 12.

Col. Gilbert Llanto, co-commander of the Base Disaster Response Coordinating Center, said US troops, all belonging to the Third Marine Expeditionary Brigade, started leaving yesterday for Okinawa, Japan, on board the USS McHenry docked at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales and aboard C-130 cargo planes.

## Humanitarian work

During the five-day joint humanitarian work, the Philippine and US troops airlifted 232,790 tons or 1,538 packages of rice, canned goods, water, sugar, coffee, milk, clothes, toys, blankets and medicines to areas rendered inaccessible by the landslides.

Ms Arroyo also received yesterday $1 million worth of tents, generators, medical supplies, blankets and water containers from Okinawa, Japan.

The US government also donated more than $500,000 through the Philippine Red Cross and nongovernment organizations.

The Office of Civil Defense said 1,062 people died and as many are still missing after the storms and typhoons destroyed or damaged more than 188,000 houses and caused P5.73 billion in damage in 35 provinces. *With reports from AP, AFP*

THE URN, wrapped in a hot pink scarf, holds the ashes of Maria Kristina Casimira "KC" de Venecia, daughter of Speaker Jose de Venecia, who died early Thursday morning in the fire that razed their Dasmariñas Village house. REM ZAMORA

# If I die, I want my casket to be in hot pink, KC jokingly told pals

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE URN containing her ashes was wrapped in a scarf the color of hot pink.

"Her favorite color was blue," Fides Camino, friend and former classmate of Maria Kristina Casimiro "KC" de Venecia, told the INQUIRER.

"If I die, I want a casket in hot pink," KC once told Camino in jest.

KC's best friends at Colegio de San Agustin were Camino and Carmela Concepcion. They had been close since their elementary school days and shared so many dreams, including going to Harvard, together.

"KC wanted to be a lawyer," Camino said.

"She also kept her promises... This is the first one she broke," she said crying.

Although KC transferred to the International School, the three friends continued to keep in touch. They would hang out, talk, watch movies and concerts together.

Camino said that on Thursday at 1:30 a.m., her father woke her up because she was having a bad dream.

She went back to sleep, but 30 minutes later, a friend called up and broke the news that KC was trapped inside their burning house in Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

Camino borrowed her brother's cell phone, inserted her SIM card and found out that KC had called her twice. She said she received two "call back" alert messages.

"KC didn't know that I share the cell phone with my brother," she said.

She said the last time she talked to KC was Wednesday evening. In their last conversation, KC told her that she had studied the whole day Tuesday and again that day for her exams.

"We always talked about school. We would study difficult subjects together like Geometry," Camino said.

"KC was not only smart, she never gave up on anything she believed in," she said.

KC's favorite movie was "50 First Dates," Camino recalled, because it's the "ultimate feel good movie" and the guy never gave up on the girl.

# Erap: Return to power up to God, the people

A PEOPLE power uprising to return him to power? Jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, who was ousted in the second Edsa people power revolution of 2001, is not averse to the idea.

"If that's the people's will, we cannot do anything about it," said the disgraced leader who is under house arrest in his lavish Tanay vacation estate while undergoing trial on corruption and plunder charges.

"I leave it up to God to put me where He wants to," said Estrada, who was said to have become more prayerful since his downfall.

He said that now that he had a "passion" for God, all his dreams have come true and he hoped that his passion for God might also return him to power.

"Maybe I will also win this last passion," he said.

With emotions running high among the "masa" followers of the late Fernando Poe Jr., former senator Francisco Tatad and former congressman Didagen Dilangalen have said that Poe's death could serve as a catalyst for change, leading to the return of Estrada to Malacañang.

*"Alam mo, hindi puwede awatin yung damdamin ng tao... walang pulitika ito* (You cannot stop the people's feelings... there is no politics in this)," said Estrada of the outpouring of support for Poe, the defeated opposition presidential candidate who claimed to have been cheated of victory in the May 10 elections.

Estrada said it would be difficult to stop the people from doing what they want to do now that their "idol" is dead.

"He took away my friend, which pains me so much, but God may have a purpose in all the things that are happening now," he said.

Estrada, who said he has been deeply affected by Poe's death, said he is becoming increasingly depressed as the Dec. 22 burial date of Poe approaches. *Armand N. Nocum*

# Congress' panel blocks Masinloc sale

By Michael Lim Ubac

ASSERTING its authority, the Congressional Power Commission has temporarily blocked the sale of the $561-million Masinloc power plant in Zambales to a supposedly "undercapitalized" Filipino-Australian conglomerate.

Sen. Joker Arroyo told reporters that during a meeting Thursday, Powercom demanded that officials of National Power Corp. (Napocor) make public all relevant documents pertaining to the winning bidder, YNN Pacific Consortium Inc.

"We've asked them to submit the bid documents of YNN," said Arroyo, a member of the commission co-chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Rep. Antonio Badelles.

Arroyo said Powercom had effectively put the sale on hold to allow the bilateral panel to exercise its oversight functions over all energy deals entered into by Napocor in behalf of the national government.

The Powercom also required members of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm), the Department of Energy, National Transmission Corp. (Transco) and Napocor to attend a closed-door caucus next month to discuss how to better protect the government interest in the Masinloc sale.

Santiago, in a separate interview, said Powercom wanted to "hammer out a procedure that will allow (Powercom members) to know beforehand the bidding documents before actual bidding is held."

# Familiar welcome in store for Asian tourists

THE TOURISM department likes to make foreign tourists, particularly those from other East Asian countries, feel at home in the Philippines.

The department's latest service, to be launched next week, is to provide interpreters for tourists arriving at the country's international airports.

Called the "Meet and Assist" program, the service will field dozens of multilingual interpreters to greet Chinese, South Korean and Japanese visitors arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Cebu's Mactan International Airport.

The program aims to create a better impression of the Philippines and to break the barriers of communication so that foreigners would feel more relaxed in the country.

"We are focused towards easing the communication difficulty with foreign tourists by making them feel more welcome and at home upon their arrival at the airports," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

"The essence of this project is to highlight the Filipino characteristics of being hospitable and exuding warmth towards anybody who visits our country," he added.

The program is to be replicated at the Centennial Airport after its initial run at Naia's Terminal 1.

The department has started pre-screening the interpreters and assessing their language proficiency and knowledge of the tourism industry.

Those who qualify will go through the Mabuhay Host Program training and will be allowed to wear the DOT Access Pass within specified areas of the airports.

Durano said the interpreters would be confined only to the airport's information booths. They will not be allowed to approach passengers, carry their luggage or accompany them without authority from the Bureau of Immigration.

The DOT has identified China as its primary target for inbound tourists.

South Korea and Japan are also among the Philippines' biggest sources of foreign tourists. *Jerome Aning*

# BIR Taps GLOBE G-CASH for annual business registration renewal

By pioneering m-commerce in the Philippines with a whole new category of innovative services called G-Cash, Globe has opened up new possibilities for local businesses, ordinary consumers and even the government. Globe G-Cash can be used as mobile currency that can be transferred from one phone to another and used to make purchases, payments and remittances, the Filipino public has gained wider access to available goods and services.

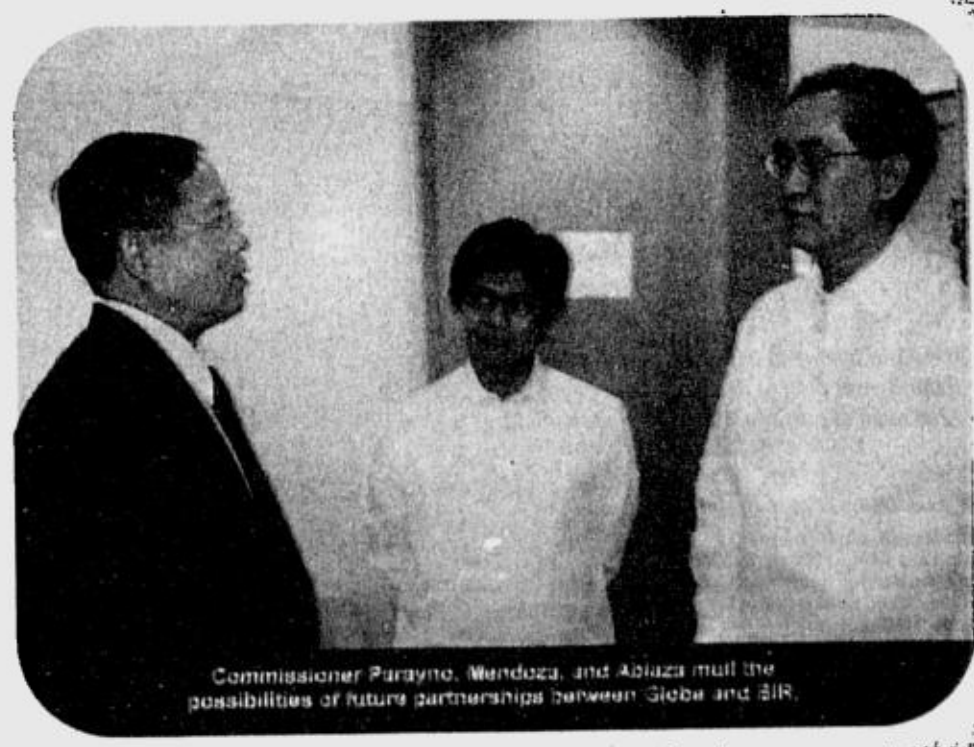
A recent addition to the growing range of services made more convenient by Globe G-Cash and the first in the country is the renewal of business registrations with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). With G-Cash, business owners are spared the hassle of taking time out to go to the BIR office to renew their business registrations. Now, processing their papers is as simple as a text that takes no less than a few minutes with the secure service of Globe G-Cash. And because G-Cash can be used anytime and anywhere, registration and renewal payment is not limited to regular office hours, leaving busy entrepreneurs with more time to expand their business and oversee other money matters.

"[Globe] envisions G-Cash as an enabler of the various aspects of business, from the consumer to business owners, even government regulators," says Globe Telecom President and CEO Gerry Ablaza. "This service to subscribers which at the same time facilitates taxpayer transaction with BIR addresses the needs of Filipino entrepreneurs, and at the same time, provides the government with a technological platform that facilitates public service by making it more accessible to the people." Subscribers must first be registered G-Cash subscribers to avail of this service. Payment via G-Cash is accepted for corporate and individual taxpayers. Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers must text "PAYBIR <amount> <MPIN> <Tax Identification Number> <Taxpayer Branch Code> <Revenue District Office Code> <Registered Company Name>" and send to 2882. Once the transaction is completed, the subscriber will receive a confirmation message and corresponding trace number verifying the renewal of the said business registration. This will also be the corresponding BIR reference number. The transaction's payment form (BIR Form No. 0605) will be published at a designated website and will be available for printing a few days after the G-Cash payment has been made.

The G-Cash service will be available by the January 2005 business registration period and is expected to encourage punctual renewal of business registrations, as well as enhance the BIR's efficiency by minimizing paperwork and improving the quality of service by reducing the number of walk-ins. BIR commissioner Guillermo Parayno expresses high hopes that the service will match the success of their previous partnership with Globe, the internationally acclaimed *Bayan, I-txt ang Resibo* promo. "The public's overwhelming response to our *Bayan I-txt ang Resibo* campaign enabled us to bring our BIR tax database up-to-date," said Parayno. "We are confident that offering G-Cash as an alternative mode of payment for business registration renewals will greatly speed up the service, , within legal framework, and we look forward to future partnerships that make the BIR more accessible to the Filipino," he said.

Joey Mendoza, president of G-Xchange, Inc., witnesses the MOA signing between BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and Globe Telecom President and CEO Gerry Ablaza.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and Globe Telecom President and CEO Gerry Ablaza formalize BIR's G-Cash partnership.


Commissioner Parayno, Mendoza, and Ablaza mull the possibilities of future partnerships between Globe and BIR.

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| Lancer GLS CVT | 758,000 | 38,700 | 31,846 | 22,632 | 18,149 | 15,917 | 14,437 |
| Lancer MX CVT | 838,000 | 65,700 | 35,207 | 25,020 | 20,065 | 17,597 | 15,961 |
| Adventure GL (Dsl) | 675,000 | 81,250 | 28,359 | 20,154 | 16,162 | 14,174 | 12,856 |
| Adventure GLX (Gas) | 700,000 | 85,000 | 29,409 | 20,900 | 16,760 | 14,699 | 13,332 |
| Adventure GLX (Dsl) | 740,000 | 58,000 | 31,090 | 22,094 | 17,718 | 15,539 | 14,094 |
| Adventure GLS Sport M/T (Gas) | 795,000 | 79,250 | 33,400 | 23,737 | 19,035 | 16,694 | 15,142 |
| Adventure GLS Sport A/T (Gas) | 848,000 | 107,200 | 35,627 | 25,310 | 20,304 | 17,807 | 16,151 |
| Adventure GLS Sport (Dsl) | 805,000 | 80,750 | 33,821 | 24,035 | 19,275 | 16,904 | 15,332 |
| Adventure GLS Sport M/T Lmtd. Ed. (Gas) | 835,000 | 105,250 | 35,081 | 24,931 | 19,993 | 17,534 | 15,904 |
| Adventure GLS Sport A/T Lmtd. Ed. (Gas) | 888,000 | 113,200 | 37,308 | 26,513 | 21,262 | 18,647 | 16,913 |
| Adventure GLS Sport Lmtd. Ed. (Dsl.) | 845,000 | 106,750 | 35,501 | 25,229 | 20,232 | 17,744 | 16,094 |
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# Health sector granted $213-M loan

THE ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) has approved two loans totaling $213 million to improve the Philippine's health sector, the bank said on Saturday.

The first loan, amounting to $200 million, will implement a health sector reform plan to address structural issues such as delivery of health services, regulatory mechanisms and health care financing, the ADB said.

Funding will be linked to "concrete, measurable results on changes in health status, and in the coverage of health services," the ADB said.

A supplemental $13-million loan will support projects in five provinces "chosen for their strong commitment to health reforms," the ADB said.

Both loans will have an interest rate determined in accordance with ADB's LIBOR-based lending facility. The first loan has a 15-year term, including a grace period of three years while the supplemental loan has a 26-year term, including a grace period of six years. *AFP*

# Janjalani makes it to terror list of US

WASHINGTON—Khadafi Abubakar Janjalani, suspected leader of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, was included on Friday by the United States in its terror list and barred all US citizens from having financial dealings with him.

The US treasury department also froze the US-based assets of Janjalani.

"Janjalani is a despicable terrorist, responsible for the kidnapping and beheading of American civilians and other innocents," said Stuart Levey, treasury's undersecretary for the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI).

"We must do everything in our power to cut off individuals like him from their support lines," Levey said in a statement.

The Abu Sayyaf was formed in the early 1990s under the leadership of Janjalani's older brother, Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani, the TFI said.

"Following the death of Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani in a clash with Philippine police in 1998, the younger Janjalani was elevated to a leadership position in the ASG, heading one of its major factions," it alleged.

Janjalani perpetrated "brutal acts of terrorism" against US citizens and foreigners, including the August 2000 kidnapping of US citizen Jeffrey Schilling, who escaped, and the May 2001 capture of three Americans and 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, the US treasury department's anti-terrorism unit said. – *AFP*

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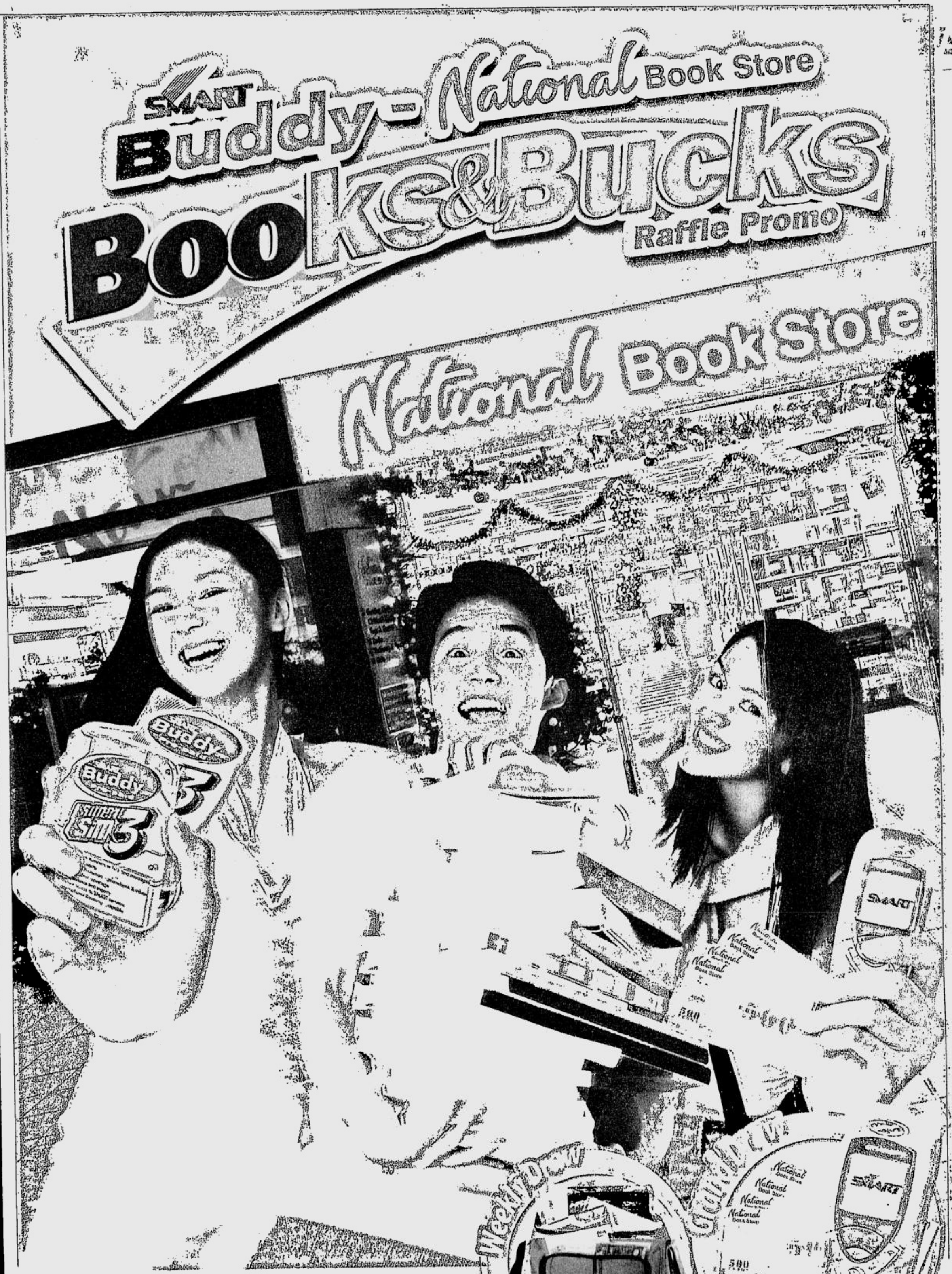


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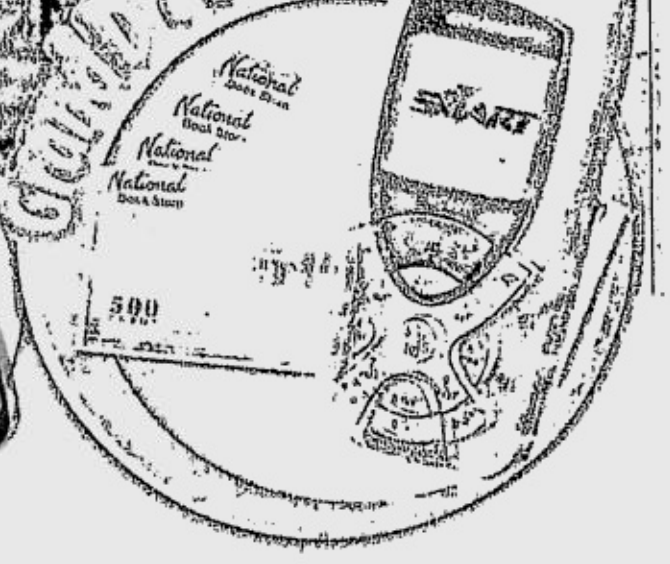

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# Typhoon tragedy can't stop Christmas

By Michael B. Jaucian, Niño Jesus Orbeta and Daniel T. Mallari,
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DESPITE the destruction and misery brought by the series of typhoons to their region, residents of Ligao, Albay, and the Sierra Madre communities in Quezon have tried to rise above the tragedy to observe the traditional rituals of the season.

Ligao City residents cast aside their sadness and collectively shared the joy of witnessing the simultaneous lighting of a giant Christmas tree at the city park and a "Peace" sign on top of the city hall building last Sunday.

The steel Christmas tree, standing about 15 meters and the only one of its kind in the Bicol region, is decorated with 65,000 multicolored bulbs. A giant *belen* or the Christmas tableau has been laid out next to it.

Despite suffering the death of at least 80 Agta natives from the killer flash floods and landslides that struck northern Quezon two weeks ago, the Sierra Madre tribal communities are still observing the traditional *simbang gabi* or dawn masses as a collective expression of hope and courage in the midst of tragedy.

"We have to continue moving. We have to provide continuous hope and courage to the victims, especially the indigenous peoples," said Fr. Pete Montallana, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development.

Ligao Mayor Linda Gonzalez said putting up and lighting the huge Christmas tree has been practiced for the past nine years, and "calamities should not be a reason for not celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

She said the Christmas tree at the city park was a symbol of peace, hope, tranquility and love.

"It is the product of the *bayanihan* spirit among local government employees and the Ligaoeños," the mayor said.

The project was started by her husband, Fernando, who was mayor before becoming provincial governor last July.

Gonzalez said the project was set up with donations from public and private organizations and from friends here and abroad.

With the unbearable sufferings and hardships being experienced by Filipinos today, Gonzalez said the mulfilighted tree could at least bring on the spirit of Christmas in a simple way.

Without the tree, Christmas would be dull and lonely for the people of Ligao, the mayor said.

Some residents who are regulars at the park said the Christmas tree was the best form of relaxation and therapy for them.

Being at the park, listening to Christmas songs from the loudspeakers and looking at the tree somehow relieve them of stress and pain, they said.

# Pinoys in UK raise funds for victims

By Raj Padilla
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

LONDON—A United Kingdom-wide fund-raising campaign was launched here on Monday for victims of the series of typhoons that battered Luzon, particularly Quezon and Aurora provinces, leaving thousands of people dead or missing and thousands more homeless.

Fr. Claro Conde, director of Filipino Missions in the UK, told the INQUIRER the fund drive is intended to raise funds for "our brothers and sisters in disaster-stricken areas" and to highlight the importance of protecting the environment as well.

"We have launched Operation Father Charlito Colendres in response to the disaster in the Philippines. It is our hope that we can get every Filipino in the UK involved in this necessary undertaking," Conde, a Redemptorist missionary, said.

## Hero priest

Honored as "a hero priest of the disaster," Colendres died after surging waters swept him away as he tried to save others from the flash floods.

According to Conde, the funds would be used to help provide food, clothing and shelter to the victims and to create awareness on the importance of saving forests and for reforestation efforts in the future.

Annabelle Palonpon-Mercado, of the UK Fil-Nurses Society and a member of the steering committee, said her group would reach out to as many Filipino nurses in all government hospitals in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure the fund drive's success.

"Since we have moderators all over the UK, we're quite optimistic that we can get the job done," she said.

Mercado said she would also coordinate with the Philippine Nurses Association chapter in the UK headed by Michael Duque to disseminate information about the campaign and fast-track all efforts.

## Funds to Quezon

Conde said whatever funds raised would be turned over to Bishop Rolando Tirona of the Prelature of Infanta in Quezon province in two batches on Dec. 16 and Jan. 3.

Infanta was one of the badly-hit areas. At the time of his death, Colendres was serving the Prelature of Infanta.

At present, there are about 85,000 Filipinos working in the UK, mostly as nurses in government hospitals and nursing homes. Filipinos account for 25 percent of the nurses in state-run hospitals in the UK today.

Conde, Mercado, and the rest of the steering committee—Sr. Clare Jo Palto-ub of the Assumption Sisters and Dr. Cherry Galorport—assailed all those responsible for "the widespread and senseless denudation of our sacred forests."

Conde's group described what had taken place as "more of an act of man than of God."

# Nayan seeks longer leave for therapy

By TJ Burgonio

FORMER hostage Angelito Nayan showed up at work Friday at the Department of Foreign Affairs, but asked for another extension of his already extended official leave in order to continue undergoing therapy for his recurring back pains.

A beaming Nayan, 34, looking dapper in a black suit, said he felt "much better" now than two weeks ago, but he had been advised to continue his physical therapy for his back pains.

"I still have some back pains," he told reporters, referring to the muscle pains in his back which he believed were an offshoot of his long period of squatting on the floor during his 26-day captivity in Afghanistan.

"I can work tomorrow, but I was advised to continue the therapy," he said.

Nayan, a junior diplomat, and two other United Nations election workers were seized at gunpoint in Kabul on Oct. 28 by Islamic militants. They were freed unharmed on Nov. 23 following strong public condemnation of the abduction and a manhunt launched by US and Afghan troops.

Upon his return to Manila, Nayan asked for and got a two-week extension of his six-month official leave which ended Nov. 28. He had used the six-month leave to join the United Nations force that oversaw the crucial presidential elections in Afghanistan.

"Every now and then I still get some flashes of our ordeal. But they are mostly positive, and they are not as frequent as during the first week after our release," Nayan said.

Nayan, a principal assistant in the DFA's Office of American Affairs before his abduction, spent most of the day calling on his former classmates and superiors at the department.

Nayan said last month that he was thumped in the head and slapped by his "ruthless" captors during their captivity, but recalled that, otherwise, he and the two other hostages were "treated well."

Nayan and fellow hostages UK-Irish Annetta Flanigan and Kosovar Shqipe Hebibi plan to have a yearly reunion, he said.


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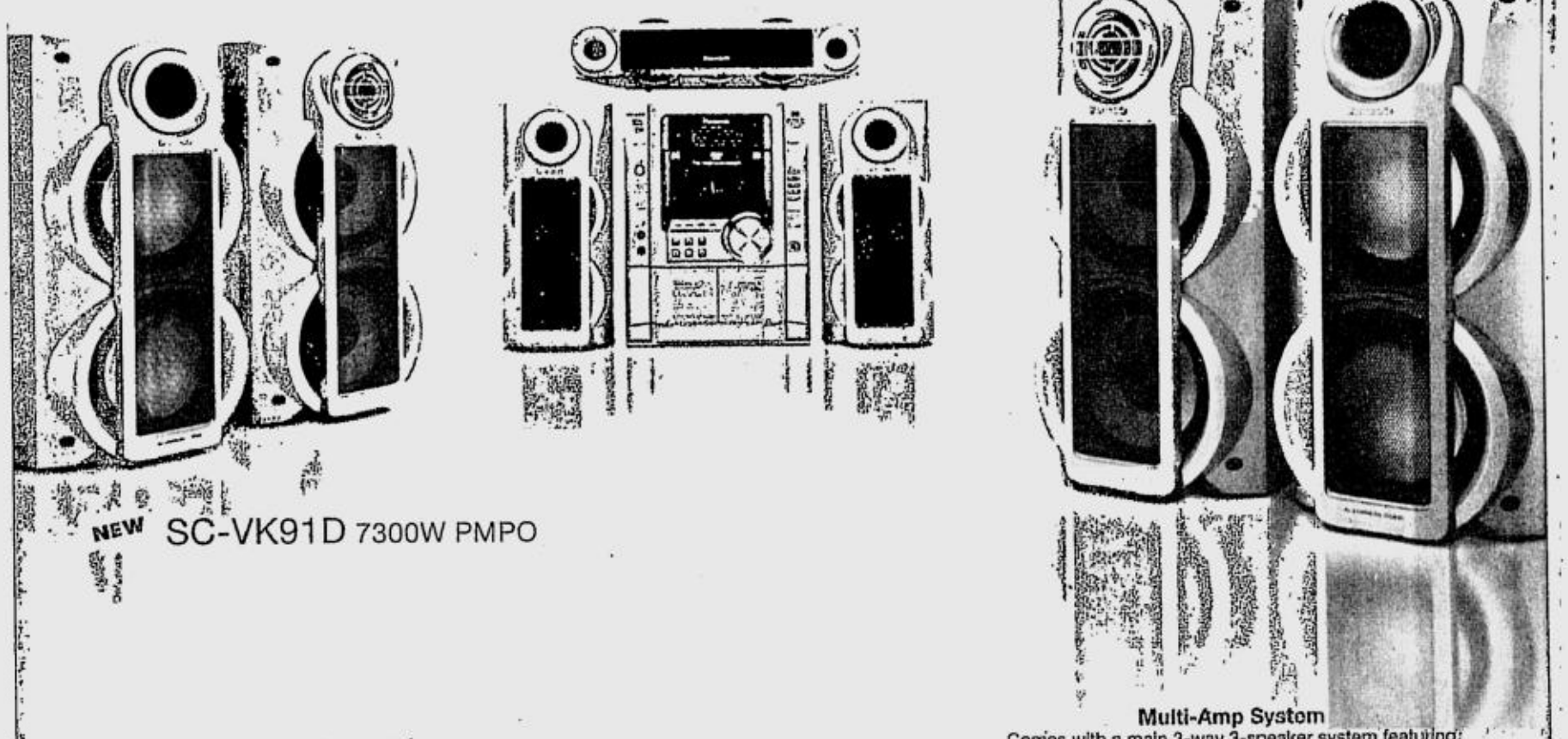

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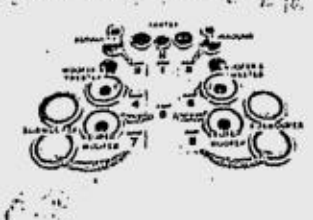

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# 'Don't exploit FPJ burial in a political game'

From page A1

Poe-Llamanzares, rejected on Friday a request from the born-again Christian group El Shaddai to bring his remains to Rizal Park for a Mass before the interment.

"That cannot be done," Mary Grace told actor Rez Cortez, an officer of the FPJ Wake Coordinating Council. She said granting the request would not be practical because the funeral march is scheduled to stop at the FPJ Productions studio on Roosevelt Avenue in Quezon City before proceeding to the cemetery.

Cortez explained to Mary Grace that the request from El Shaddai head, Bro. Mike Velarde, had been relayed by former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto, a close friend of her father's.

El Shaddai had endorsed Ms Arroyo during the presidential campaign, pushing her election in May. But its support did little for her in the National Capital Region, which voted overwhelmingly for Poe.

IT SHOULD have been the other way around but it is Susan Roces who succors a supporter of her husband who was overwhelmed either by grief or the crush of the crowd inside the church. RAFFY LERMA

GETTING ready to shelter the remains of "Da King," workers at the North Cemetery race against a deadline, Dec. 22, when Poe will be laid to rest beside his parents and brother. REM ZAMORA

### 'Priests want to say Mass'

It's not only El Shaddai which had suddenly turned pro-Poe.

In a homily during the afternoon Mass on Friday at the Sto. Domingo Church, Fr. Sonny Ramirez noted how things had changed with Poe's death.

"Now every priest in the country wants to say a Mass for FPJ. But during the campaign, no one wanted to be identified with him," Ramirez said.

For the Wednesday funeral, a group of bishops also wants to hold a special service for the movie actor who lost by more than a million votes to Ms Arroyo in the official canvass but, his followers insist, had been cheated of victory.

"So many want to help, like this group of bishops. We are trying to squeeze in as many as we can," said Candy Cortez, a close friend of the family.

But so many have had to be turned away. "We are really sorry, but we cannot accommodate all the volunteers," she said.

### Never too late

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said it was never too late for Ms Arroyo's offer of reconciliation to the Poe family and her political adversaries.

He said Ms Arroyo had been consistent in her offer of peace and unity with the opposition since she assumed the presidency in 2001.

Nograles was reacting to the opposition's claim that the reconciliation offer had come too late because Poe was already dead.

Nograles urged the opposition to keep an open mind and accept the offer in order to heal the nation once and for all.

"Reconciliation is not time-bound. It depends only on the party being offered. Even atheists reconcile with their God in their dying moments," he said.

THE VIGIL of FPJ's fans/voters just go on and on. Not a few have been "living" outside the Sto. Domingo Church compound, eating, sleeping there and vowing to stay until their idol's funeral. JOAN BONDOC

Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy said he was saddened by the opposition's rejection of the President's offer.

Uy noted that only Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, had expressed willingness to heed the reconciliation offer, but he was not spared from criticism.

"Reconciliation is only going to be too late if they will seal their door shut. But the administration will remain hopeful as long as there is a chance for reconciliation," Uy said.

### Highly combustible mixture

Pimentel, a lawyer, said it was "wise" for the Sandiganbayan to bar deposed President Joseph Estrada from the funeral of his best friend.

"The emotion of the situation will already be at its high peak then," the senator said. "You add the presence of Erap, who has his own following and has his own problems with the government, and that will be a highly combustible mixture that may need only a small spark to burst into an uncontrollable conflagration."

The Sandiganbayan ruling permitting Estrada only to attend the wake was a "precautionary measure to prevent the volatility of the situation from erupting into a violent end," Pimentel said.

### 'When comes such another?'

In a privilege speech early this week, Pimentel said the country had lost a good man with the death of Poe:

"FPJ was, in my mind, *sui generis*. A man alone. A class act unto himself. The leader who would have provided our people with a rallying point for renewal.

"We have lost a good man. And as we pray for the repose of his immortal soul, we can only ask, using the words of Mark Antony who spoke at the funeral of Julius Caesar: 'When comes such another?'"

Pimentel also said Poe was probably the only national politician who was "perennially short on words but long on undiluted love" for the welfare of the people. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

## *FPJ tomb 'simple but decent like him'*

By Tina G. Santos

POSTERS and streamers will festoon the North Cemetery when Fernando Poe Jr. is laid to rest on Wednesday.

"He's special to us and we want to make him feel that even in death," Lumeng de los Santos, one of the caretakers of the Poe mausoleum, said yesterday.

De los Santos, 53, said posters of their fallen idol, including those used during the election campaign, would be put up in areas where the funeral march would pass.

A number of workers were busy preparing the actor's niche when the INQUIRER visited the cemetery yesterday morning.

Poe's remains will be interred beside the niche of his younger brother Andy. Their parents, Bessie Kelly and Fernando Poe Sr., are also buried at the site.

De los Santos said the actor's niche was made of granite and marble chips. But she added that its design was as simple as that of the other niches of family members.

"It will be a niche fit for a simple but decent man like him," said De los Santos, who has been in the service of the Poe family for the past 35 years.

Residents of the area regard Poe as their hero.

They cited his boundless generosity, especially to the poor, but said they opposed the idea of burying him at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, which the Arroyo administration had earlier suggested.

"We have so much respect for him, but if we will have our way, we really want him to be [buried] here, together with the masses. [Malacañang] just wants to appease the supporters of FPJ," said Clarita Abular, 67.

Abular said she had been expecting Poe to make good on his promise to be back before Christmas.

"We never had an inkling that he would be back lying in a coffin," said construction worker Lemuel Santiago, 64.

Poe's last visit to the cemetery was on Nov. 27, De los Santos said. She said he had even instructed her sister-in-law Gigi, another caretaker, to fix the drainage and put in additional plants.

The actor had promised to be back to distribute gifts, including toys for the children in the community, De los Santos said tearfully.

# Old foes now fight for common cause

From page A1

Reyes tapped Taruc in October to help promote vegetable gardening as a way of coping with the soaring cost of food. As for Villanueva, he had been serving as consultant and aircraft pilot for the aerial reforestation projects of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources since he retired in 1978.

### No bitterness

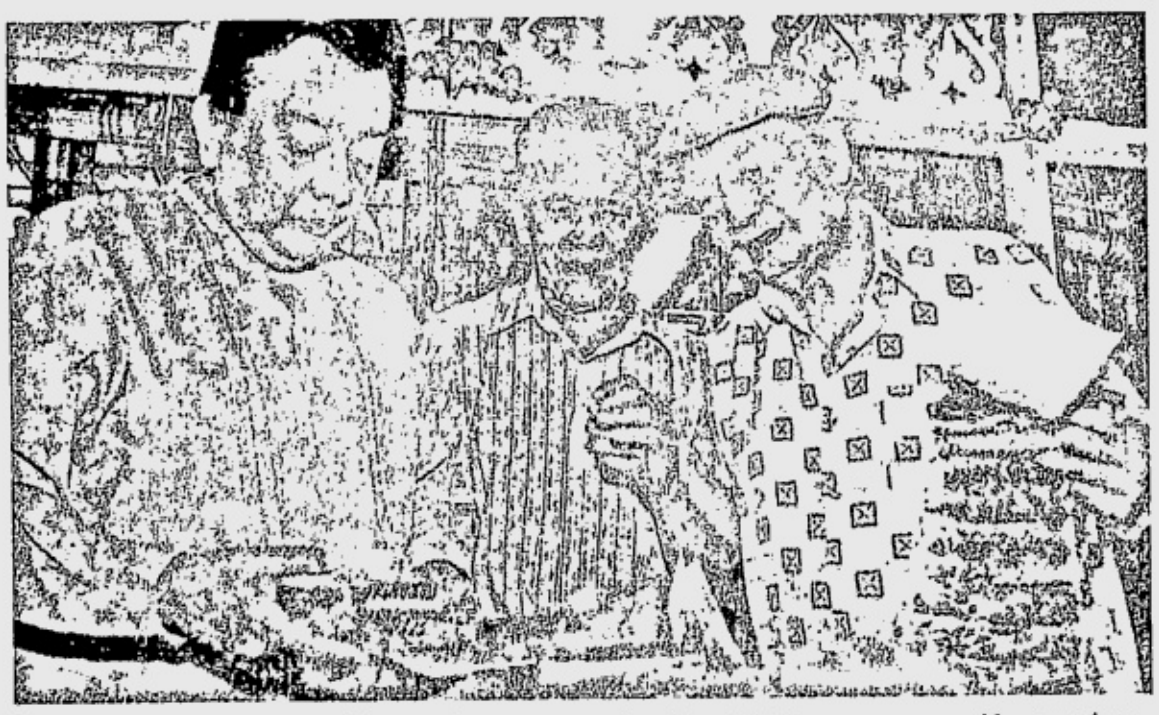
"The Air Force where General Villanueva belonged was strafing me, machine-gunning me, and bombarding me in the Zambales mountains and the Sierra Madre," recalled Taruc, who in the 1950s transformed his World War II resistance fighters into a socialist guerrilla movement.

"And here I found him," Taruc said, turning to his once faceless pursuer, now seated next to him on a couch.

"I do not entertain any bitterness, any anger [toward Villanueva] because I know we are both victims of the developing history of our country, as affected by the history of the world," he said.

"So I have nothing for you, General Villanueva, but understanding and love.

"This is a symbol of reconciliation—former enemies now coming together for the good and future of our motherland, our children and grandchildren."



TWO WARRIORS, Taruc and Villanueva from two opposing sides of the fence are now working together in a reforestation campaign together with retired Gen. Victor Corpus, the "reforestation czar." Chito Bertol (left), head of the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, donates vegetable seeds for distribution to the storm-whipped province of Quezon. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Taruc surrendered to the government in May 1954 and later became a congressman. He has been a resident of Quezon City for the last five years.

### Never again

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1951 (the first batch of cadets to graduate after World War II), Villanueva initially served as a Second Lieutenant with the Scout Rangers assigned to track down the Huks.

He said that while his men had many skirmishes with the enemy, Taruc himself proved elusive. He said he was not aware of any encounter with a rebel unit that was directly led by the supremo.

"I never want to experience it again," Villanueva said of the Huk campaign that took him through the provinces of Zambales and Pampanga up to the Bicol region.

After three years with the Rangers, he was transferred to the Air Force.

Villanueva recalled one harrowing episode in the hunt for Taruc and his band in the Candaba swamp of Pampanga: "I had seven men under me, and we were holed up for almost a month on an elevated position while we waited for the Huks to cross the river below. We subsisted on 10 pieces of crackers and a spoonful of corned beef per meal.

"But instead of finding Huks, we saw only women in that river."

### Mark of the Skull

Taruc knew that river well. He reminded Villanueva that it was where another unit of the Infantry—a team dubbed "Markang Bungo (Mark of the Skull)"—became notorious for raping the local women.

"It further angered us," he said of the rapes.

Plumbing his well of memories, Taruc said he and his men had posted pieces of paper on the trees along the soldiers' trail, "telling them that they, too, came from the poor and that they were merely being used by a puppet government beholden to foreign imperialists."

"Almost 50 years ago," Villanueva said, "we were regarding each other as enemies. It turned out that we are really friends who love our country... I never expected that we will meet this way and talk about peace and restoring Nature."

He added: "*Wala na 'yun. Matatanda na kami* (That's over now. We've grown old )."

### Helping Quezon

Among the activities wherein Villanueva and Taruc will work together is the distribution of vegetable seeds in the storm-ravaged towns of Quezon.

Actually, Villanueva said, the two of them had been scheduled to check out potential reforestation sites in that province before disaster struck.

"But now the bridges and roads are destroyed, showing you just how critical the state of our environment has become," he said.

The seeds, donated by the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation and formally received by Taruc and Villanueva on Thursday at Alcantara's residence, are meant to help typhoon victims generate food while rebuilding their lives.

### Symbolism

The significance of the enterprise is clear to Alcantara: While Villanueva can lend his expertise in forestry and agriculture, Taruc can be the "catalyst" by virtue of his stature in Philippine history.

"What a symbolism for our country's healing and reconciliation!" she said.

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# Gov't hopes ceasefire with Reds would lead to peace

THE GOVERNMENT expressed hopes on Saturday that the unilateral Christmas ceasefire it has implemented with communist insurgents could become a permanent truce.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), however, have not yet agreed to the Christmas truce but said they are "studying the possibility."

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government would welcome any reciprocal action by the communists, but added that "it would be more beneficial if both the government and the CPP-NPA can come up with a lasting ceasefire."

Bunye cited the ceasefire in place between the government and the main Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which has paved the way for formal peace talks between the two sides.

Bunye said Filipinos in the rural areas had had enough of the CPP's three-decade-long Maoist insurgency, adding that "it is high time that lasting peace be given a chance."

The President had declared a Dec. 16 to Jan. 5 unilateral ceasefire with the communists in the spirit of Christmas and urged the rebels to reciprocate.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Efren Abu, however, warned that he would ask the President to lift the ceasefire if the NPA continued to stage attacks.

The government and the 8,000-strong CPP-NPA had traditionally called ceasefires during the Christmas season.

The communists called off peace talks with the government in August, accusing Manila of not doing enough to persuade the United States and the European Union to remove them from their list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco yesterday urged CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison to come home and lead the communist panel in talking peace with the government.

Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said Sison should heed the Dutch government's order to leave the Netherlands for overstaying.

By going home, he said, Sison would be able to have a direct hand in the peace process, ensure its success and put an end to the communist insurgency problem.

*Cynthia D. Balana; AFP*

## Kuwait bars Pinoys from Iraq

KUWAIT has reimposed its ban on Filipinos crossing its border into Iraq and alerted its border authorities to stop those who would attempt to sneak into the violence-wracked Middle East state, foreign officials said yesterday.

The ban, which applies only to Filipinos, came a month after Philippine officials, led by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, petitioned the Kuwaiti government to reimpose it in view of the "increased hostilities" in Iraq.

Kuwait's ban on border-crossing of all foreigners was lifted in October just when Philippine officials were scrambling to enforce a temporary ban on the deployment of workers to Iraq.

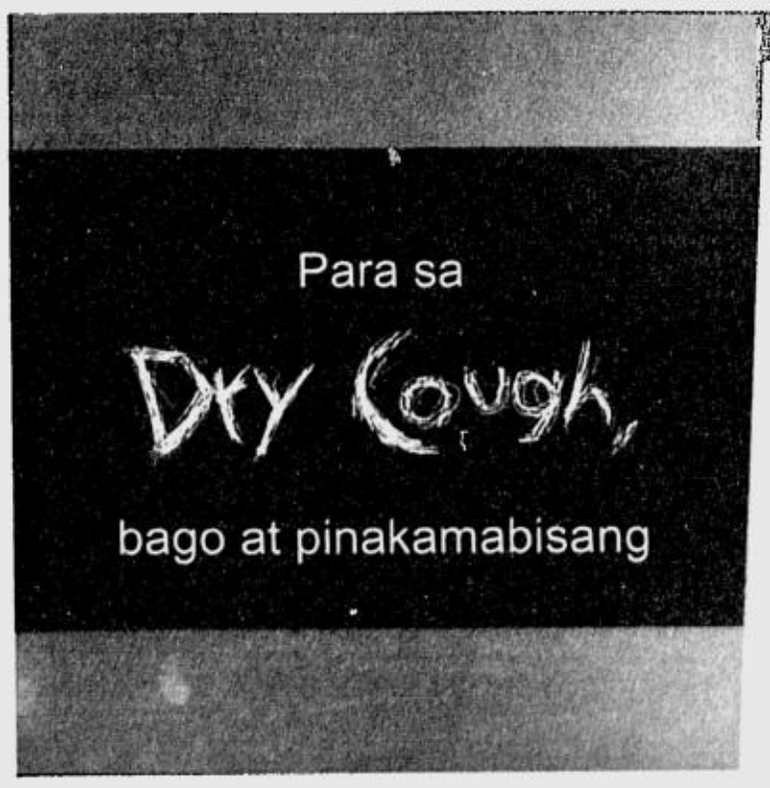
Ambassador to Kuwait Bayani Mangibin hailed the Kuwaiti government's decision.

"The Kuwaiti government has demonstrated that, while recognizing the universal right of everyone to travel, extraordinary circumstances necessitate more proactive action from governments, especially in protecting the lives of its citizens," he said.

The security situation in Iraq "has worsened" exposing residents and foreign workers, including Filipinos, to more mortar attacks and kidnappings, the ambassador said, citing assessments by embassy officials in Baghdad.

Two Filipinos were hurt in separate attacks on two US camps in late November and early December. Between 5,750 and 6,000 Filipinos are estimated to be working in several US military installations in the capital Baghdad and elsewhere.

*TJ Burgonio*



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# 3 foreigners killed in attack in Mosul

**BAGHDAD—Insurgents killed at least three foreigners in Mosul, a northern city that became a stronghold after Falluja fell to US and Iraqi forces. Militants also set ablaze a pipeline near the capital—a rare attack on oil infrastructure in a populated area.**

The US Embassy confirmed the name of an American contractor taken hostage six weeks ago in Baghdad—a man who has not been seen or heard from since—identifying him as Roy Hallums, a 56-year-old worker for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi Army.

His wife, Susan Hallums of Corona, Calif., said in a telephone interview Friday that she has not heard from the kidnappers.

"I want to plead for his life and send out prayers and hope that he will be released," said Hallums, who is separated from her husband, the father of their two daughters.

The continuing bloodshed has dissuaded Iraq's political parties and coalitions from organizing public rallies ahead of the country's Jan. 30 parliamentary elections, the first free vote since the overthrow of the monarchy 45 years ago.

Although the election campaign officially kicked off Wednesday, so far only the Iraqi Communist Party—which is part of the US-installed interim government—was known to have held a public gathering.

"We are endeavoring to establish a democratic, federal country... that enjoys security and peace and in which religious, national and sectarian fraternity will be established," Minister of Culture Mufeed al-Jazairi told several hundred activists waving the party's red banners in Baghdad on Friday.

In another move aimed at stimulating Iraq's recovery, the United States has completely forgiven $4.1 billion in debt Iraq owed it and urged other nations not part of an international debt relief agreement to follow suit.

Washington's debt forgiveness goes beyond the 80 percent reduction of $38.9 billion in debt agreed to in November by the Paris Club of international lenders. Iraq owes another $80 billion to various Arab governments, mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"I urge Iraq's other creditors to work quickly in forging agreements like this one to reduce Iraq debt," said Treasury Secretary John Snow at an agreement signing ceremony at the state department attended Secretary of State Colin Powell and Iraqi Finance Minister Adil Abdul al-Mahdi.

Insurgents lobbed rocket-propelled grenades at an Australian compound Friday inside Baghdad's Green Zone, the heavily fortified complex that houses the interim government and the US Embassy. One round struck the area where Australian troops are housed, but there were no casualties.

Saddam Hussein's defense minister, who surrendered to US forces last year, will join another notorious general—known as Chemical Ali—in the dock when initial hearings against Baath regime figures open next week, an official familiar with the proceedings said.

Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad gave himself up in September 2003 at a coalition military base in Mosul. He was not considered to be a war crimes suspect and many had expected that he would be freed after being questioned.

In contrast, Ali Hassan al-Majid, who earned the nickname Chemical Ali after using poison gas to kill thousands of Kurds in the 1980s, is considered a leading defendant.

"Chemical Ali and Sultan will be the first to face the hearings," the official said.

In Mosul, third-largest city with over 1 million inhabitants, attackers ambushed a convoy of four cars carrying Turkish security personnel to Baghdad and killed four occupants of one vehicle. The bodies of the men, including one whose head was appeared severed, were seen lying on the road alongside their burning car. *AP*

**MOTHER AND CHILD**
A visitor and her son walk below a painting of the Virgin Mary carrying baby Jesus inside the Nativity Church in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Dec. 17. Bethlehem's mayor said this week the traditional Christmas tree and decorations would not adorn the city's Manger Square until shortly before the holiday season, in respect for the 40-day period of mourning following the death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. REUTERS

# 5 in Japan may have bird flu

TOKYO—Five people in Japan may have been infected with the bird flu virus after an outbreak among chickens in February, but there is no risk they will develop symptoms and no chance of more infections, the government said on Saturday.

Blood tests showed that five people who were involved in work such as the culling of chickens after an outbreak of avian flu in Kyoto in western Japan in February had developed an antibody to the virus, the health ministry said in a statement.

"There is a possibility that they were infected from this case but a positive antibody (result) is not enough to reach a conclusion... In any case there is no risk that they will develop symptoms," the ministry said.

"Since the five people... have not developed symptoms of bird influenza and there is no risk of them developing symptoms in the future and no possibility of new infections to others, the health ministry thinks this is not a problem for public health," it added.

The ministry said it was conducting a thorough assessment of the five positive antibody test results, adding that it planned to make a report around Wednesday.

If confirmed the cases would mark the first human infections of bird flu in Japan, which reported several cases of bird flu earlier this year.

All of those cases have been identified as the H5N1 virus, the strain that has hit other countries in Asia and been blamed for human deaths in Vietnam and Thailand. *Reuters*

# Saudi oil giant Aramco tightens security after Bin Laden message

RIYADH—State-owned giant Saudi Aramco said on Saturday it remained "on alert at all times" to secure the world's biggest oilfields, after Osama bin Laden urged militants to attack Iraqi and Gulf oil facilities.

"As the company responsible for the world's largest proven reserves of oil, Saudi Aramco is keenly aware of its responsibility (to protect workers and oilfields)," Aramco said in a statement responding to questions from Reuters.

"For this reason, Saudi Aramco trains and equips a security force that is professional and responsive," it said. "The company's security is, in effect, "on alert" at all times."

An audiotape released on Thursday, which an intelligence official in Washington said was highly likely to have been issued by Bin Laden, urged militants to exploit a "golden opportunity" to weaken the United States.

"Be active and prevent them from getting hold of our oil and concentrate your operations on it (oil), in particular in Iraq and the Gulf," said the speaker.

The Aramco statement said oilfields and refineries are guarded by "multiple levels of armed Saudi Aramco security personnel working in close coordination with Saudi government security forces."

It gave no numbers, but Aramco President Abdullah Jumah said in April the company employs 5,000 security guards who use helicopters, boats, cameras and other protection equipment.

Regardless of threat levels at any given time, every employee and contractor has to present a company identification card before getting into any Aramco facility.

"Sensitive company facilities have additional security requirements for access, including electronic and visual screening similar to that found in sensitive installations around the world," the company statement said.

"Saudi Aramco has long recognized the importance of its business to the world's economy, and takes its responsibility very seriously."

Saudi Arabia is battling a 19-month wave of violence by supporters of bin Laden's al Qaeda movement. Gunmen have killed foreigners in the Red Sea petrochemical hub of Yanbu and the oil city of al- Khobar—close to Aramco headquarters—but there have been no reports of direct attacks on oil facilities.

Saudi Aramco estimates its crude oil reserves at about 260 billion barrels, a figure it says could go much higher because vast areas of the kingdom have not been thoroughly explored.

The company says it has never suffered a supply disruption during decades of operations. *Reuters*

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# Israeli raid in Gaza kills 9 Palestinians

GAZA—The Israeli army raided south Gaza on Friday in response to increasing Palestinian mortar attacks, killing nine Palestinians, including six militants, and prompting hundreds to flee their homes, witnesses said.

In the town of Rafah, Palestinians rescued six Palestinians on Friday from a tunnel on the Gaza-Egypt border that had collapsed. They had been trapped underneath the rubble for hours.

Palestinian gunmen have dug many such tunnels to slip in weapons but others have been used to smuggle cigarettes. It was unclear what the tunnel had been used for. Witnesses said Palestinians in the town rescued the men by pulling them out of shaft dug under a house that connected to the tunnel.

Israeli troops have raided Rafah many times to battle militants waging a four-year-old revolt, killing hundreds of Palestinians and leaving thousands homeless from demolitions of homes suspected of hiding tunnels.

At least nine Palestinians were killed and 30 wounded in Friday's army raid into Khan Younis, Gaza's second largest city and a hotbed of militants who frequently pepper nearby Jewish settlements with mortar and rocket fire.

Six of the Palestinians killed were militants and at least two were civilians, medics and witnesses said.

The incursion unfolded hours after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told a high-profile security conference that there was a unique chance for Middle East peacemaking with new Palestinian leaders following the death of Yasser Arafat.

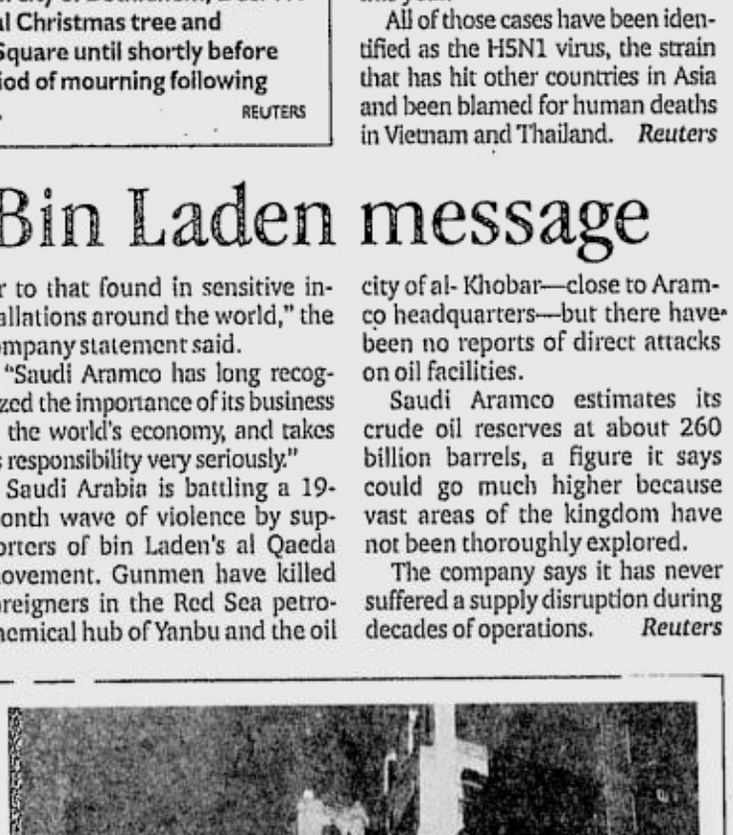
Sharon said he was ready to coordinate a planned pullout from Gaza with a moderate post-Arafat leader, likely to be Mahmoud Abbas. He is favored to win a Jan. 9 presidential election and advocates a halt to violence and fresh talks.

About 600 people, many carrying small children in freezing predawn darkness, fled homes in neighborhoods bearing the brunt of the raid and were given shelter in a UN-run school.

They said a number of homes were demolished.

"What peace and what pullout? We only feel fear and cold. I do not know even if my house was still standing or if it was demolished," Kamilia Attobji, 36, a mother of 10, said.

Israeli forces say buildings they raze in such raids are used as cover for militants targeting settlements. Residents uprooted by demolitions complain of collective punishment. *Reuters*



**$44-M APARTMENT IN NY**
A building at 834 Fifth Avenue is seen Dec. 17 in New York City. Rupert Murdoch, chair of News Corp, will reportedly buy a 20-room triplex apartment in the building for $44 million in cash. The price is a new record for an apartment in New York City. AFP

# US warns of Christmas attacks in Indonesia

JAKARTA—The US state department warned Saturday that terrorists were planning more attacks against Western targets in Indonesia over Christmas and New Year, and reiterated advice to its citizens not to travel to the

The US state department's move follows similar warnings by other foreign governments earlier this week that militants belonging to the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group were plotting more bombings.

"The department reminds Americans that the terrorist threat in Indonesia continues and may increase over the December-January holiday period," according to a statement on its website. "Reports indicate that terrorists are planning attacks against a wide variety of targets."

Jemaah Islamiyah has been blamed for three terror attacks in Indonesia in the past two years, including the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings in which 202 people were killed, seven of them Americans. AP

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# Taiwan says China establishing legal basis to attack with new law

TAIPEI—Taiwan condemned China's plan to draft an antisecession law, describing it on Saturday as a move to establish a legal basis to attack the self-ruling, democratic island that Beijing claims as a province.

Vice President Annette Lu said the proposed law would have no bearing on Taiwan because China has no legal or historical rights to the island of 23 million people.

"They are using this method to announce to the world they will do anything to swallow up Taiwan and will establish the legal basis to do so," Lu told reporters.

Lu and President Chen Shui-bian are reviled in Beijing. The two reject the communist government's claim that Taiwan is part of China and must be reunited with the mainland, by force if necessary.

China has been alarmed by what it sees as creeping moves toward secession by Chen, especially the Taiwan leader's plans to adopt a new constitution by 2008. The move is viewed by Beijing as a declaration of statehood that can lead to war.

China planned to send the draft antisecession law for deliberation during a parliament session on Dec. 25-29, Beijing's official Xinhua news agency said on Friday. The move was seen to be aimed at heading off formal Taiwan independence.

"They are looking for a legal basis to invade Taiwan," said Chiu Tai-san, vice chair and spokesperson for the Mainland Affairs Council, which sets policy toward Taiwan's arch-rival..

"If they want to punish or invade Taiwan they must have some legal basis to make it okay to attack," Chiu said.

Major state-controlled Chinese papers carried the Xinhua report on their front pages on Saturday, but they did not refer directly to Taiwan and gave no more details.

China had earlier floated a "reunification" law, rather than an "antisecession" law, and Xinhua did not explain the change.

Some Taiwan analysts said the new draft was passive in nature, and could be a slight improvement in the sense that China would be legally obliged to prevent Taiwan independence but would not necessarily push urgently for unification.

Chiu said the anti-secession law could be the precursor to a plan to implement a unification law in stages, to gradually build pressure on Taiwan. *Reuters*

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The W

# US weighing heart risks from Pfizer's Celebrex

WASHINGTON—US health officials urged doctors on Friday to consider prescribing alternatives to Pfizer Inc.'s arthritis drug Celebrex while regulators weigh new data on heart risks.

"We do have great concerns about this product and this class of products," Acting Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Lester Crawford told reporters.

Celebrex is part of the same family of drugs as Merck & Co Inc.'s Vioxx, which the company pulled from the market Sept. 30 because it raised heart attack and stroke risk.

The FDA is "keeping all options open" on Celebrex, including adding a strong warning about safety risks or asking Pfizer to limit consumer-directed advertising for the widely used painkiller, Crawford said.

The agency could ask Pfizer to pull Celebrex from the market. Pfizer said Friday it had no plans to recall the drug.

Crawford said the FDA would have more announcements about Celebrex in the next few days.

New concerns arose Friday after the National Institutes of Health halted a trial testing Celebrex for cancer prevention, because the drug more than doubled heart attack risk compared with placebo. Patients in the trial took Celebrex for 33 months on average, the FDA said.

The NIH said it was reviewing all government grants for studying Celebrex and other COX-2 inhibitors.

If doctors do consider Celebrex appropriate for certain patients, they should prescribe the lowest possible dose, FDA officials said.

Celebrex and other COX-2 inhibitors were designed to relieve pain with a lower risk of life-threatening stomach bleeding than older, over-the-counter drugs. Celebrex has been shown to cut the risk of stomach ulcers but has not been proven to reduce the chances of serious gastrointestinal bleeding, said Dr. John Jenkins, head of the FDA's Office of New Drugs.

The FDA has been under fire in recent months as being slow to respond to serious drug side effects, and the Celebrex news prompted more criticism.

"Right now, we have a situation where the public is left wondering when the next shoe might drop when it comes to drug safety," said Senate finance committee chair Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican.

Consumer group Public Citizen said the FDA should remove Celebrex and Pfizer's other COX-2 inhibitor, Bextra, from the market immediately.

The House of Representatives energy and commerce committee sent a letter to Pfizer asking for documents related to Celebrex and Bextra. The letter said the committee was concerned about recent Pfizer statements regarding the safety of Celebrex.

Jenkins said the government had acted properly in its oversight of Celebrex. Pre-approval reviews are not designed to catch all side effects, making post-approval monitoring important, he said. No earlier studies had suggested a significant heart risk with Celebrex, Jenkins said.

"I don't see this as a failure of the system. This is how drug development, drug approval and post-marketing monitoring is done, not only in the United States but in all other countries who have a regulatory system," Jenkins said. *Reuters*

## *Pfizer reaction*

NEW YORK—Pfizer Inc. said it received new information Friday night about the cardiovascular safety of its COX-2 inhibitor Celebrex (celecoxib) on an analysis of two long-term cancer trials.

As reported to Pfizer by the Data Safety and Monitoring Board, one of the studies (the APC cancer trial) demonstrated an increased cardiovascular risk over placebo, while the other trial (the PreSAP cancer trial) revealed no greater cardiovascular risk than placebo.

"These clinical trial results are new. The cardiovascular findings in one of the studies (APC) are unexpected and not consistent with the reported findings in the second study (PreSAP)," said Hank McKinnell, Pfizer chair and chief executive officer.

"Pfizer is taking immediate new information to regulators, physicians and patients around the world," said McKinnell.

# Princess Sayako defers engagement after royal's death

TOKYO—Princess Sayako, the only daughter of Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, has postponed the announcement of her engagement due to the death Saturday of her great-aunt, a royal official said.

SAYAKO

The Imperial Household Agency had been planning for Sayako, 35, to later that day declare her intention to marry 39-year-old Tokyo city bureaucrat Yoshiki Kuroda.

Princess Takamatsu, the widow of the late Emperor Hirohito's younger brother Takamatsu, died aged 92 early Saturday, an agency official said on condition of anonymity.

Also known as Kikuko, Princess Takamatsu died of blood poisoning, NHK news agency reported. The granddaughter of Yoshinobu Tokugawa, Japan's last shogun or feudal lord, she had been in and out of the hospital since February.

Princess Takamatsu had no children. Her husband died of lung cancer in 1987.

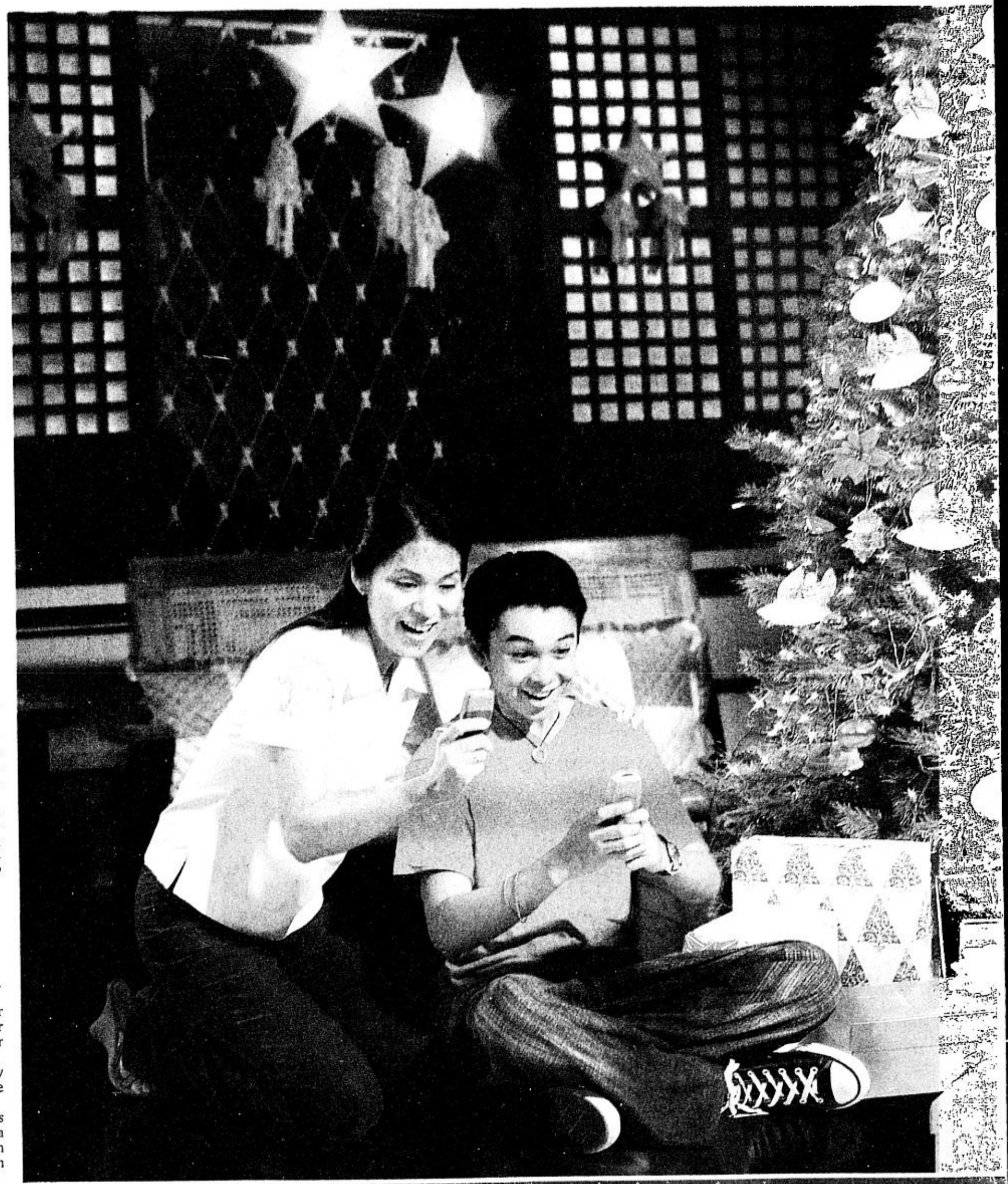
Japanese media reported that she treated Sayako as though she was her own granddaughter and had been especially looking forward to the engagement.

Sayako and other members of the royal family went to the Takamatsu residence to pay their respects Saturday.

The youngest of Akihito and Michiko's three children, Sayako will be the last to wed. It was not clear how long the engagement announcement would be delayed.

Sayako and Kuroda had initially planned to announce their engagement in November, but postponed it out of consideration for the victims of a major earthquake that rocked northern Japan in October.

Kuroda attended the elite Gakushuin school with Sayako's older brother, Prince Akishino. Though Sayako has known Kuroda since childhood, the two only reportedly began their courtship late last year. *AP*



# Survey: Seniors in US support medical marijuana

WASHINGTON—Nearly three-quarters of older Americans support legalizing marijuana for medical use, according to a poll conducted for the nation's largest advocacy group for seniors.

More than half of those questioned said they believe marijuana has medical benefits, while a larger majority agreed the drug is addictive.

AARP, with 35 million members, says it has no political position on medical marijuana and that its local branches have not chosen sides in the scores of state ballot initiatives on the issue in recent elections.

But with medical marijuana at the center of a Supreme Court case to be decided next year, and nearly a dozen states with medical marijuana laws on their books, AARP decided to study the issue.

"The use of medical marijuana applies to many older Americans who may benefit from cannabis," said Ed Dwyer, an editor at AARP The Magazine, which will discuss medical marijuana in its March/April issue appearing in late January.

Among the 1,706 adults polled in AARP's random telephone survey in November, opinions varied along regional and generational lines and among the 30 percent of respondents who said they have smoked pot. AARP members represented 37 percent of respondents.

Overall, 72 percent of respondents agreed "adults should be allowed to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if a physician recommends it." Those in the Northeast (79 percent) and West (82 percent) were more receptive to the idea than in the Midwest (67 percent) and Southwest (65 percent). In Southern states, 70 percent agreed with the statement.

Though 69 percent of those age 70 and older said they support legal medical marijuana use, less than half agreed it has medical benefits. Seventy percent of respondents age 45-49 said they believe in the medical benefits of pot, as did 59 percent of those in the 50-69 age group. *AP*

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**THE WORLD AT HER FEET**
Miss World Maria Julia Mantilla of Peru poses for the media during a press conference in Lima, Dec. 17. Mantilla was crowned Miss World 2004 in Sanya, on China's tropical island of Hainan, on Dec. 4.
REUTERS

# US, EU cut deal on future climate talks

BUENOS AIRES—Europe and the United States reached a compromise late Friday at the UN climate change conference on future efforts to reduce harmful greenhouse gases, according to a draft text of the deal obtained by AFP.

The two sides have been at loggerheads for two weeks on convening informal meetings to discuss what must be done once the Kyoto protocol expires.

The European Union wanted several informal meetings over the next year on strengthening the international fight against climate change.

The United States insisted on a single meeting at which participants would only exchange information on the environment policies of different countries.

The compromise struck Friday calls for a single meeting, in May 2005, as the United States had wanted.

But, in keeping with European wishes, the meeting will last several days, and the future of climate change negotiations will be up for discussion.

The meeting will "promote an informal exchange of information" on actions related to cutting harmful emissions and adapting to climate change, according to the draft text of the deal.

The goal will be to assist countries to "continue to develop effective and appropriate responses to climate change," the text said.

Participants will also discuss "policies and measures adopted by their respective governments in support of implementation of their existing commitments under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol."

The reference is to two UN climate treaties, the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to which the United States is a party, and the 1997 Kyoto pact, which the United States has refused to ratify.

Saudi Arabia's representatives were holding out on formal adoption of the compromise late Friday, the final day of a conference attended by representatives of 160 countries that kicked off on Dec. 6.

The Saudis regularly block climate negotiations, demanding compensation for the progressive disappearance of their oil riches and the effort by industrialized countries to reduce dependence on oil, a key source of carbon dioxide.

Official talks on measures to follow the Kyoto protocol, which goes into effect in February and runs until 2012, are to start in November next year.

Kyoto commits industrialized countries who signed it to trimming output of six "greenhouse" gases, especially carbon dioxide, by at least 5.2 percent by 2012, compared with 1990 levels.

But scientists say that reductions of around 60 percent are urgently needed to avoid wreaking potentially catastrophic damage to the environment.

The Europeans see it as essential to get the United States and major emerging economies such as China and India on board on a new agreement on reducing greenhouse gases that would follow the Kyoto pact.

The United States, the source of 23 percent of the world's greenhouse gases, has not shown much interest in negotiations.

Emerging industrial giants may be hesitant to sign on to international efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions, for fear they could throw the brakes on their own economic growth. *AFP*

BOBBIE Jo Stinnett in an undated photo AP

# Baby cut out of slain mom found alive

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—A baby girl who was cut out of her murdered mother's womb and taken from the crime scene was found alive on Friday in the possession of a Kansas woman who police charged with kidnapping resulting in death.

The motive for the bizarre crime remained unknown, investigators said, though local media in Kansas City reported that the alleged kidnapper had suffered a miscarriage.

Todd Graves, the US Attorney in Kansas City, Missouri, released an affidavit detailing how computer sleuthing by FBI agents tracked down the baby to the town of Melvern in eastern Kansas where she was found in apparently healthy condition at the home of Kevin and Lisa Montgomery. Lisa Montgomery, 36, was named in federal kidnap-murder charges, which carry the death penalty.

Agents who made the arrest said Montgomery had told her husband that she had unexpectedly given birth. The couple has two older children but it was not clear from the document if she was also their mother.

The baby was located about 24 hours after the murder of Bobbie Stinnett, 23, who was eight months pregnant. Her body was found by her mother at her home in the town of Skidmore in rural northwest Missouri on Thursday afternoon.

The victim's mother told police she thought her daughter's stomach had "exploded," according to the affidavit.

Investigators said they found a lateral cut and no fetus.

The victim bred and sold rat terrier dogs and had been in communication on her computer with someone who asked for directions to her home to make a purchase, the affidavit said. *Reuters*

# Bosnia Serb PM resigns, rejects Western pressure

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia—Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic stepped down on Friday, refusing to enact police and army reforms demanded by top peace overseer Paddy Ashdown.

The surprise move followed Ashdown's dismissal of nine Bosnian Serb officials on Thursday, and a simultaneous United States travel ban on Mikerevic's party. Both measures were penalties for the Serbs' failure to arrest war crimes suspects.

"I am not ready to accept and implement threats and ultimatums of the Hgh Representative (Ashdown)... gravely breaching the constitution," Mikerevic told a news conference.

His resignation can be rejected by President Dragan Cavic.

Ashdown has wide-ranging powers under the 1995 Dayton peace agreement which ended the Bosnian war but divided Bosnia artificially into two, a source of grief ever since.

The Serbs this week again refused to create a unified police force that would have merged their interior ministry with that of the Muslim-Croat half of Bosnia—a defiant stand Ashdown says is just another piece of deliberate obstruction. *Reuters*

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# OPINION

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•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
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## Half-cocked

IN POLITICS as in ordinary life, compromise is the necessary art. But there are compromises that push people farther apart, rather than bring them closer together; concessions that give insult, rather than appease.

The trial balloon—first floated by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye—that it was the "sense" of Malacañang to honor Fernando Poe Jr. with a National Artist award or a burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, is one such unhappy compromise.

**EDITORIALS**

We have a phrase for that kind of concession: *consuelo de bobo*, or an idiot's recompense. The whole idea is transparently an attempt to appease Poe's supporters, who still feel angry over what they see as massive cheating at the May polls. It is self-evidently a sop, to contain public discontent.

But it has done no such thing. Instead, it has led to the exact opposite, raising discontent to an ugly pitch. The public unease has affected not only those who mourn Poe's passing, but even those who do not necessarily regard Poe as the champion of the masses. Poe's loyalists see Malacañang's gesture as insincere and political, and therefore demeaning to themselves and their idol. Others see in the rush to judgment a cheapening of the honors, a lowering of the standards.

What were the President's men thinking?

Either some people close to President Macapagal-Arroyo panicked and sought an immediate solution to what they defined as a problem of appeasement. Or the same gang who couldn't shoot straight, the same people behind the President's bungled appointments or botched announcements, rushed in, half-cocked, yet again.

The reaction from those closest to Poe should have brought the trial balloon crashing down.

"Why only now? It should have been made long ago," said Conrad Poe, the actor's brother, referring to the National Artist award. He also rejected the offer to bury Poe in the national heroes' memorial, saying the plan was to bury his brother in the family plot at the North Cemetery in Manila.

The spokesman for the Poe presidential campaign also cautioned the Palace against politicizing Poe's death. "Don't ride on the wake, don't mix it with politics," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero told reporters.

## Half-mast

BUT whether by accident or design, Malacañang continues to offer the poisoned fruit. Presidential Adviser on Culture Cecile Guidote-Alvarez has confidently announced that the late actor would be conferred the Presidential Medal of Merit tomorrow, creating the legal basis for an order to lower the flag to half-staff on Wednesday, the day of his burial.

"By virtue of this award, once it is given and accepted, there is therefore the honor of a half-mast. *Ang luksang sambayanan ay magaganap sa* [The day of national mourning will take place on the] day of the funeral. That is part of this award."

The proposal to have the flag lowered to half-staff was first raised in the House by neophyte Rep. Teofisto Guingona III of Bukidnon. In no small measure, the young Guingona owed his victory to Poe's decision naming him the official opposition candidate in a rather crowded field (which included, among others, a long-time opposition candidate running under deposed President Joseph Estrada's party). So perhaps in an excess of gratitude, Guingona argued that the lowering of the flag to half-staff was a "gesture of unity with the family in this period of mourning."

He was joined by a senior oppositionist. Sen. Edgardo Angara, the man widely perceived to have played a decisive role in convincing Poe to run, said Poe deserved the honor because he had stood out in his field.

Their position is easy to understand; they are mourning the loss of their leader, and in such a frame of mind no honor is too great for the fallen. But their view must be tempered by the requisites of law and the greater good of the public.

Alvarez et al. may be working overtime to provide the President with the legal basis, but the award they have in mind may not only be conferred; it must also be accepted. If the still-angry widow Susan Roces rejects it, where will that leave us?

## The President's appointing power

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

SO soon after his re-election, President George W. Bush has again committed another political blunder. He nominated a close supporter for the position of Secretary of Homeland Security who later embarrassed him with a serious confession. Bernard Keric withdrew his name because he had not disclosed that a foreign domestic employee of his had illegally entered the country.

A similar mistake embarrassed President Bill Clinton during his first term, an indiscretion that should have warned President Bush later to be more careful with his own appointments. His error was a second mistake and could have been avoided with more prudence. Dubya did not take the necessary precautions to check the credentials of Keric but assumed that his friend was qualified to be a member of his Cabinet. What made it worse was that Keric's responsibility was to be homeland security.

If the president's advisers had looked closer into the man's record, they would have been less approving. It was reported that Keric had, as chief of the department of corrections in New York City, spent $30,000 of the Police Foundation funds to order 30 busts of his, never distributed, though, probably because of public criticism. A civil suit was filed against him for forcing his staff to work for the Republican candidates on pain of disciplinary action for non-compliance; the case was settled with the plaintiff receiving $300,000 in damages and a promotion. There were also suspicions of Keric's Mafia ties.

Keric's best recommendation must have been the active role he played in campaigning for Bush during the last election. Even former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York was enthusiastic in endorsing their fellow Republican who, they should have known, was not spanking clean. They would have been discomfited with the nominee's rejection by the US Senate, which performs the confirmation function here exercised by our Commission on Appointments. The Democrats would have gleefully pounced on this opportunity to get back at Bush for trouncing their party's candidate last month.

A similar improvidence has marked some of our own President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointments, but they have not met with much public disapproval. When former Sen. Ramon Revilla was appointed chair of the Public Estates Authority (now the Philippine Reclamation Authority), the act was questioned briefly but was soon accepted and forgotten. The appointment was regarded as another capricious decision of the president to express her gratitude for the political largesse of a legislator who did precious little during his two terms in the Senate, besides his lack of qualifications for his new office. Some say he was also too old for the job. His claim that he has fathered some 80 children, the majority of them illegitimate, must have been counted in his favor.

Another appointment originally received with much skepticism was of former Rep. Joseph Durano, who now holds the position of tourism secretary. He has no known talents or experience for the office, but his name was speedily approved by his former colleagues in the Commission on Appointments. It is generally believed that Durano has been rewarded for his strong electoral support for Gloria in Cebu, where she won a landslide victory. This was another proof that the appointing power is often exercised by the president, and not necessarily the incumbent Gloria alone, to thank loyal political supporters. Even President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Joseph Kennedy (JFK's father and a failed politician with Nazi sympathies) ambassador to the Court of St. James for his campaign contributions.

There are probably other appointments extended by President Arroyo in favor of persons with doubtful credentials except only party affiliation and loyalty to her. That is to be expected because she is a political creature whose stamina as a public leader depends on popular support. This is both the strength and the weakness of democracy. In an authoritarian regime, the despot does not care what the people think of the appointments he makes, almost always for his own interests and not the public's. In the real democracy, only the best candidates are appointed after careful scrutiny of their qualifications, including their moral character, for the positions to be entrusted to them.

Under the Constitution, appointments to certain important offices are subject to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments, but its decisions are often dictated by political considerations, including respect for or even fear of the president. It is seldom that his choices are rejected. In the United States, even nominees to the federal Supreme Court with exceptional endowments have been denied confirmation by a highly selective Senate.

To de-politicize the judiciary, its members from the Supreme Court down to the lowest level no longer need the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments. Their appointment requires only a previous nomination by the Judicial and Bar Council, which, as I have observed earlier in this column, is not a really independent body. The president's political influence over its regular and appointive members is often, if not always, irresistible.

## A good man

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

THE STORY is told about a wife who boasted: "My husband and I have such a peaceful life. We never have any arguments. Whenever I am right, he gives in." "What about when he is right?" someone asked her. "Oh, that never happens" was her quick reply.

* * *

**Joseph was a good man who gave in big, and who gave in a lot to God. The Gospel today (Mt. 1, 18-24) describes him as an "upright man." I take that to mean that he was a righteous man to someone "up there." He was obedient to God's will. God's agenda in his life was bigger than his own life agenda. Is there a space for God's agenda in your life? Is He in your agenda at all?**

* * *

How were you born? Most of us were born and grew up in a home where the father and the mother fell in love, got married and raised children. But there are children born in difficult situations, with questionable backgrounds, and even under shameful circumstances. If it is of any consolation, the Savior was born in a similar situation. It was a simple case of teenage pregnancy, father unknown. Next time you start looking down on a child with a "doubtful background," please be more kind. Lean not on pride and self-righteousness but on compassion and understanding.

* * *

**Have you ever wondered why there are very few pictures of Joseph in *stampitas*? There are plenty of pictures showing Jesus by his lonesome, or Mary alone, or Jesus and Mary together. You know why? That's because Joseph is the one taking the pictures! Levity aside, we honor Joseph, a good man, who was obedient to God, considerate of Mary and her situation and protective of Jesus. He must have been a man of few words. In fact, we do not have any record of anything he said in the Bible. But He must have been a person with a big heart. Yes, they say little who love don't have to say much.**

* * *

Fernando Poe Jr. was a good man, with a big heart. The spontaneous outpouring of love and respect from the many simple people he helped, and the sincere appreciation of people whose lives he touched, are a testament to the kind of person that he was, and the quality of life he lived. A lot of the rich and powerful, the so called "intelligentsia" looked down with disdain on this actor who is a high school dropout. He was branded as intellectually incompetent and morally inadequate to lead our nation. He was used, cheated, betrayed, but he whom the builders rejected has become a cornerstone. Cornerstone of what? *Abangan ang susunod na kabanata!*

* * *

**A good man with a big heart. That is how FPJ will be remembered by many Filipinos. How will you be remembered? Someone who had a big mouth? A big head? A big pocket? A big belly? Etc.? And how many will remember you, if at all, after you are gone? Don't belittle the heart. It is the source of true life, and true love, and true leaders.**

* * *

Susan Roces, the widow of FPJ, is a picture of peace, strength, and grace. She has a way with words. When she talks, people listen. Why? Because she speaks her truth—to borrow the words from "Desiderata"—"quietly and clearly."

* * *

**On hindsight, FPJ's campaign sign was the forefinger pointing upwards, a reminder that we are one nation, in need of help and redemption by someone up there. In death, his mission is accomplished already, but when a grain of wheat falls and dies, it will bear much fruit.**

* * *

The death and the wake of FPJ should not distract. Rather, it should lead us straight to the heart of Christmas. The first Christmas wasn't a cozy, "nice-nice" kind of a night. It was a night of poverty, blood, sweat, tears and even stench. Christmas should lift us up with hope, but it should also bring us down to the reality of the suffering around us. Our country does not only need healing. It also needs deliverance from selfish politicians and greedy government leaders.

* * *

**By the way, the three kings, they who were rich, intelligent and powerful, were able to find Jesus and experience true redemption. You know why? Because they followed the star. If only we follow the star...**

I wish you all a peaceful, meaningful Christmas. Also, I wish you all a Christmas experience so deep and powerful to disturb your comfort zones and make you kneel down before the Baby Jesus and in awe ask, "Dear Jesus, what is it that you ask of me? What is your mission for me? Are there still many Christmases ahead of me?"

* * *

**Please look into your heart this Christmas, and there you will find Him. Please give your heart this Christmas, and there you will feel Him. Please open your heart this Christmas, and there you will embrace Him. *Have a hearty Christmas!***

* * *

**A moment with the Lord:**

***Lord, remind me that the heart of Christmas is the heart. Amen.***

# Ka Blas

REVEILLE

*Ramon J. Farolan*

LAST Tuesday, Dec. 14, family and friends of the late Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Fajardo Ople gathered at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio to mark his first death anniversary. After the memorial services, a book containing anecdotes and vignettes about Ka Blas, written by his associates and admirers, was distributed to a small group that attended the ceremony. I was not personally close to him but I decided to put down a few of my thoughts about the man.

I was a young air force captain when I first met Blas Ople. Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was in town, one of the first of several heads of government to visit the Philippines after the imposition of "constitutional authoritarianism" by the late President Ferdinand Marcos. I was assigned to Whitlam's entourage, making sure his schedule was not disrupted in any way. We were at the residence of the Australian ambassador—and I was standing aside as the visiting prime minister was being introduced to members of the Australian community—when a Filipino approached me. He had a drink in one hand and was listing heavily to portside. Staring at my name plate, he asked in a loud, booming voice, "*Anak ka ba ni* Modesto (Are you a son of Modesto)?" I replied affirmatively and he added, "*Kaibigan ko ang tatay mo* (I'm a friend of your father)." End of conversation. I later found out that he was Labor Secretary Blas Ople.

Through the years, always from a distance, I came to admire his mastery of the English language, written as well as spoken. And as I learned more about him, I realized that in many ways, my father's life and his bore striking similarities. They were both high school graduates with little or no formal university education. My father finished at UP High, one of its first graduates, and started a career in journalism as a cub reporter for the Manila Daily Bulletin. Ople was also a former journalist who worked as a deskman and columnist for several publications. In public office, they both fathered government programs which to this day have contributed immensely to the economic well-being of the nation. Modesto Farolan earned for himself the title, "Father of Philippine Tourism" in recognition of his efforts and accomplishments in the development of the tourist industry. Blas Ople would be remembered best as the father of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) industry. As of today, the OFW program has remitted some $6.9 billion to the country just for the first 10 months of the current year. Much as we may wish to phase out this program because of negative social implications, we have to bear in mind that without these remittances, our economy would definitely be in worse straits than it is now. My father was the first Filipino president of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), the forerunner of the World Travel Organization. Blas Ople was the first Filipino president of the International Labor Conference in Geneva.

* * *

Several years ago, Ka Blas invited me to lunch at the Diamond Hotel. He was just recovering from his stroke and so his movements were a bit slow. But the mind was as sharp as a razor and much of what he said remains with me to this day. He spoke of the need for modernizing the armed forces, noting that our neighbors were busily but quietly rearming. We had lost most of our strategic relevance to the United States, and it was important to formulate new national security doctrines and develop our own capabilities no matter how modest. (I cannot help but be reminded that today, people are still wondering what really happened to the proceeds of the sale of Fort Bonifacio. By law, these were supposed to have been deposited in a trust fund for the AFP modernization program.) Just as we were saying our goodbyes, he presented me with a copy of his book "Global But Parochial," a collection of papers and speeches on foreign policy. It was the equivalent of a mini-course on Philippine foreign policy issues. I would have wanted to spend more time with him.

* * *

Many consider the OFW program as Ople's greatest legacy to the nation. While this may be true, I also feel that his other gift in the field of human resource development is just as important. His record in nurturing and developing future leaders of our country is unparalleled. Just as Rafael Salas had a knack for selecting young men and women and providing them with opportunities for public service, Blas Ople was skilled in spotting raw talents, enriching their experience and allowing them to grow and develop into leaders in their own right. Just to mention a few, we have Pat Sto. Tomas, Benny Laguesma, Regalado Maambong, Jose Brilliantes, Nieves Confesor, Ruben Torres. Their common denominator was a poor boy out of Hagonoy, Bulacan who rose to become secretary of labor, Senate president and secretary of foreign affairs.

* * *

In his farewell speech as the president of the 60th Session of the ILO conference in Geneva in 1975, Ople started off with the following lines: "Almost any valedictory has to be a poignant moment. Most of us here as leaders of governments, workers and employers are trained, almost as second nature, to despise sentiment as weakness. But the saying of farewells to friend permits us the indulgence of feeling delightfully and incurably human again. For a moment, I hope there are no longer any adversaries left standing in the field, always poised for a point of order and that there are only friends remaining." We shall miss him.

# Always a little girl

AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

WHEN my husband woke me up to tell me about the fire in the home of Speaker Joe and Gina de Venecia, and how their daughter KC had died as a result, the first thing I said was: "What?! The little girl?"

My children wondered whom I was talking about. "Mom," they said, "she was 16!" Yes, KC was indeed a young lady when she perished in the fire, but in my mind she was always the little girl whom Manay Gina would summon, together with her older brother Christopher, to be introduced to guests. The Christmas cards the De Venecias would send out each year would chronicle the amazing consequences of time's passing in their family, and most families. While Joe and Gina seemed hardly to age, Christopher and KC quickly, too quickly, left their childhood behind. Perhaps it's every parent's defense mechanism: to keep children forever children in our minds and imaginations, even as we behold the undisputed proof of their maturity.

I won't pretend to have known KC well, for all the time we shared were fleeting encounters in their Dasmariñas Village home and one memorable road trip to Dagupan to celebrate the election of President Fidel Ramos, our *kabaleyan*. But, dropping by KC's wake at Santuario de San Antonio, I saw a wealth of evidence of the kind of young woman she had been. Friends from the International School and Colegio San Agustin put together photo collages and bright-colored posters on KC: her favorite things, her favorite sayings, the good times she shared with her many friends.

The marble urn containing her ashes nestled in a bower of roses and other blooms, surrounded by framed photos of KC and of her family. It was amazing how, in just a few hours and in what must have been a state of deepest grief and bewilderment, the young woman's family and friends managed to put together a tribute to KC that was both tasteful and calming. Even strangers, who hardly knew the De Venecias apart from Joe and Gina's very public personas, felt for them keenly. There are no words to describe the pain of losing one's child, it is simply beyond imagining.

* * *

BUT those who know the Speaker and his wife and their children, along with their extended family, can gauge the depths of their sorrows. Along with her brother Christopher, KC is the fruit of a second chance at love and marriage of two people who, at their age at the time of their meeting, may have thought they had already put such matters behind them.

Both recovering from failed marriages, they met, as Gina tells it, in a restaurant while she was having lunch with a good friend whom JDV also knew. Brazenly, Speaker Joe had himself introduced to Gina, then invited himself to join them for lunch and the movie afterwards, although, as Gina recounted in a magazine article, Joe slept through the film!

Together, they built a blended family that included not just Christopher and KC and the children from their respective previous marriages, but also their clans and their associates. In JDV's and Gina's case, "associates" covers a wide universe, indeed. For if as a couple they enjoyed a singular gift, it was the gift of friendship and hospitality, opening the doors of their Dasmariñas home to all comers. These could number in the hundreds and thousands when JDV's political sun is at its zenith, then dwindle to a small corps of friends and supporters when he suffers a downturn.

But if they ever felt the sting of disloyalty and betrayal, or were ever crestfallen at the downturns of Joe's political fortunes, they showed no signs of it. Joe is a consummate politician and his resilience is easy to explain. But how to explain Manay Gina's skills at this most difficult of callings, standing by her husband's side while carving out her own public space?

* * *

PART of the explanation lies in her upbringing, in the belly of the show-biz beast, as one of the daughters of "Doc" Perez and Mama Nena Vera Perez of Sampaguita Pictures, the pre-eminent star builder and major film studio that had its heyday in the 1950s up to the 1970s. It was no big thing for her, Gina once recalled, to wake up and find Gloria Romero or Susan Roces asleep beside her, since her father would rather put up his female stars in his home than risk their safety when they had to go home late at night.

"This is nothing to me," she remarked, when I observed how difficult it must be to be married to a politician and find your home filled with strangers so early in the morning. "In our home, we got used to dealing with actors, crew members and fans all hours of the day."

Ever the producer's daughter, Manay Gina also has a "nose" for public fortunes, be it in politics or show business. Her predictions about the future of personages attempting public careers often prove uncannily accurate, though sadly not accurate enough when it came to her own husband's presidential ambitions.

But it is not all politics with Gina. Asked why she chose to so publicly and wholeheartedly embrace the cause of Melissa Mercado Martel, who is suing her husband Robbie for attempted parricide, she said simply: "Because I have known Melissa since she was a baby, and because no woman deserves to be battered by her husband."

* * *

TO GINA and Joe, there are simply no words we can offer to ease your pain or heal your hurt. All that those who care for you can do at this point is to pray that God grant you the grace of reconciliation and acceptance, at a time when you will need it most.

Right now, you are surrounded by a multitude of mourners, stunned by the sudden turn of fate and wishing comfort as much for themselves as for you. But the time will come when you must confront the reality of KC's absence from your lives in silence and in private. Our prayers fly to you for strength at that moment.

# The immortal FPJ

PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

WHEN a man as popular and as deeply-loved as Fernando Poe Jr. dies, we can be sure that many will try to claim him as one of their own. But FPJ always knew where he belonged—with the *masa*. Da King is not dead; he lives in their consciousness.

He was their hero, their benefactor, their protector and friend. He gave them hope for a better life, but above all, he showed them what a Filipino in these times could be. Loyal, kind, brave and strong.

Every society in every age projects a model of the national character. In Europe, it was the educated aristocrat who lived for the arts. In Latin America, it was the cavalier, the gallant horseman who personified courtesy and nobility. In Japan, it was the warrior who lived by a strict code of chivalry. In the Philippines, it is the quiet ordinary man who never bothers anyone, keeps his emotions in check in the face of provocation, but stands as a pillar of strength against abuse.

FPJ portrayed that kind of man in the movies, even as he strove to live his life by that same ideal. He didn't talk much in his films or in real life. He preferred the casual conversation of his loyal buddies over the rituals of social gatherings. He avoided the limelight not out of snobbishness, but out of shyness. He put a distance between him and those who would peer into his private life. In a world that made it its business to report every detail of an actor's life, FPJ remained an intensely private person. As an actor, he shunned all media interviews. He never promoted his own films. To solicit votes as a candidate and court media approval would have been, for him, the most arduous thing he had ever done.

Individuals like him measure their worth not by the amount of money they have but by the fidelity of their friends and followers. To the needy, they give not out of pity, but from a deep sense of duty. They expect nothing in return. Their power over their men is not based on acquired or inherited rights but on the grace of their charisma.

Though they are leaders of men, it is camaraderie they seek more than sheer power. They themselves avoid being beholden to the wealthy and powerful, though the latter may often seek their friendship. Respect is the tribute the powerful pay to such natural leaders.

These are not feudal lords; they are rather the present counterpart of our pre-hispanic tribal leaders. They eat and drink with their men. They fight the same battles, share the same jokes and sing the same songs. They wear the same clothes, eat the same food and wipe their faces with the same cheap towels permanently slung over their necks. But the hierarchy is inviolable and it is affirmed by the ultimate responsibility the leader takes for the actions of all his men.

So immense is this responsibility that the leader instinctively thinks first of the welfare of his men before he would ask them to do anything for him. Wisdom overrides pride. Restraint is the rule. For the leader is aware of the high cost of impulse.

The responsibility comes with the territory. FPJ's charismatic authority extended beyond his studio. He was the entire movie industry's leader, a role he shared with his bosom buddy and fellow actor, Joseph "Erap" Estrada. These two men were passionately protective of the industry and knew its vital role in the lives of the ordinary people who watched their movies. They felt answerable to them.

FPJ and Erap were a category by themselves. By the time they migrated to the world of politics, their stature in the eyes of the *masa* had gone beyond the movie roles they played. This was especially true of FPJ, whose distance and reserve in real life closely paralleled the traits he personified in film. The mystique of FPJ was larger than Erap's. He evoked awe where Erap elicited comradeship. The *masa* loved Erap, but they revered FPJ.

FPJ was too pure for politics. His charisma clashed with the requirements of political battles. There was a real danger that politics could dissolve the very things that the *masa* valued in him—his remoteness from all ambition, his disdain for power, his decency and his independence. The political arena forced him to articulate his ambition, to explain his quest for power, and to risk his integrity and independence by the alliances he had to make. He was already king in the hearts of the *masa*. People who admired him asked why, in heaven's name, did he aspire to be a mere politician.

His charisma was his weapon, but it was also his vulnerability. From day one, the enemy's artillery was aimed at demystifying him. They questioned his citizenship, they dug up his private life in order to cast doubt on his integrity and most of all, they belittled his intelligence by pointing out his limited formal schooling. Through all this, he kept quiet, staunchly refusing to retaliate in kind. The media mocked his reticence and equated it with ignorance.

Even as Congress was locked in a highly disputed canvass, he remained a responsible leader till the end, carefully skirting the dangerous path to demagoguery. He kept the flames under such a tight lid that his opponents thought he had no fire in the belly when he refused to lead his supporters into the streets. How badly they misread him!

In death, FPJ has finally prevailed. As president of this country, he would have governed for at most six years. Part of him would have died during that period. But now he lives forever in the memory of the *masa* to whom he will always be the kind of human being they want him to be.

* * *

*Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com*

# Moving on

COMMENTARY

*Raul J. Palabrica*

SIX days to go and it's Christmas.

Depending on your outlook in life, regardless of age, the second most important event in Christendom (the first being Easter) will either be a time for rejoicing or a stressful day.

The holiday trimmings and Christmas carols being played by radio stations cannot hide the fact that times are hard. For those who are not financially challenged, the money squeeze is manageable; those who are not as fortunate have no choice but to bite the bullet.

As if the financial worries were not enough, the country was hit recently by two typhoons that killed hundreds, injured many more and destroyed properties worth millions of pesos.

With the recent calamities, many are having reservations about celebrating the holidays. It's difficult to be in a partying mood when thousands of our countrymen in Southern Luzon are homeless and dependent on the generosity of others for survival.

Their sad plight had been brought to our living rooms by radio and TV reports. Only the callous will not be moved by the sight of dead bodies, starving children and collapsed houses. The victims are paying dearly for unabated logging activities in their communities.

Natural calamities are unavoidable, but when they happen close to Christmas, the pain they bring seems to be deeper. The loss of a family member, friend or loved one has a stronger emotional impact at this time of the year.

### Purpose

But life has to go on after the dead have been mourned and buried. The victims have to rebuild their homes, rehabilitate their lives and prepare for the challenges ahead. They cannot stay forever in the evacuation centers or rely on doles for their continued existence.

Those of us who were spared the typhoons' destructive effects can only thank the Almighty for our good fortune. Had the storms hit the urban areas with the same fury, the death and destruction toll would have been higher. Only God knows why the people of Infanta, Real, General Nakar and other towns in Aurora and Quezon had to suffer the brunt of the weather phenomena.

If we can have our way, we probably would have wished that the storms descended instead on corrupt government officials, drug lords, greedy businessmen and other dregs of our society. The country will be better off with them burning in the hottest part of hell.

There must be a reason for the death and destruction caused by the recent typhoons. Things do not happen in a vacuum. Perhaps, Mother Nature couldn't take any more the rape of its bowels, so it sent hundreds of logs and tons of water down the mountains to send a strong message about the urgency of forest conservation. The sad thing is, the innocent ones—not the parties responsible—paid with their lives and properties for that sin.

For all its adverse consequences, the tragedy has a bright spot: it engendered a spirit of sharing and cooperation among our people. Within hours from the media's reports on the extent of the death and destruction, food, water, clothing and cash donations poured in. Hundreds of volunteers helped sort out the donations so they can be sent quickly to the distressed areas.

### Concern

Considering the tight money situation and spending demands of the season, it would not have come as a surprise if people held back or were less generous in extending assistance to the typhoon victims. The solicitation for contributions for various causes is always at its peak at this time of the year. The spirit of the season supposedly encourages people to share their blessings with the less fortunate.

And yet the donations came in volumes. ABS-CBN and GMA-7 showed footage of their warehouses filled with donated sacks of rice, bottled water, clothes and other materials being prepared for delivery to the affected areas. The two TV networks "competed" to bring relief goods to the stricken areas as soon as possible.

The other media outlets conducted a similar campaign for contributions from the public. Churches asked their parishioners for cash donations. Civic organizations encouraged their members to share their resources with the typhoon victims.

The show of support was amazing. The private sector acted without any prodding from the government. Even government offices that are known for their extravagant activities did their share. They gave up their Christmas parties and donated the money earmarked for their merrymaking to the victims.

Except for some politicians who tried to take advantage of the publicity value of the situation, there was a synergy of efforts between the government agencies assigned to the relief efforts and the citizens' groups that volunteered to collect and sort out the donations.

### Hope

Considering the death and destruction left by the typhoons in their wake, it is doubtful if the government would have been able to cope with the problem had the private sector not pitched in immediately to help.

As the holiday mood sets in, however, the possibility looms that the public's interest in the victims may slowly die down. The *niñgas cogon* attitude (the enthusiasm sinks as fast as it rises) is still prevalent among many Filipinos. For the past few days, except for the interruption caused by the death of actor Fernando Poe Jr., all eyes have been focused on the efforts to help the people of the affected areas get back on their feet.

But for how long will this concern last? The public's attention span is as fickle as the news that makes the headlines in the newspapers or evening TV news reports. The most that an event or controversy will be talked about is two weeks. After that, only those directly affected will be left to ponder on it.

Remember the train that derailed in Padre Burgos, Quezon, (yes, that's the same province that got a direct hit from the two recent typhoons) last Nov. 12 that resulted in the death of 12 people and injuries to many others?

After the usual hue and cry over the accident died down, nothing was written or talked about it anymore. It was as if the derailment happened a long time ago, not last month; only the victims and their relatives are left to remember its pains and sorrows.

Let's pray the typhoon victims do not suffer a similar fate.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

# Mining: Boon or bane?

THE SUPREME Court ruling that foreign mining companies can exploit the country's mineral resources was received ecstatically by Malacañang and mining firms.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Philippines could become the fifth biggest mining power in the world, noting that it is No. 3 in gold, No. 4 in copper, No. 5 in nickel and No. 6 in chromite deposits. "We are poised for a strong economic takeoff," she said. "We should not be poor."

The President said mining "can easily wipe out our foreign debts and yet leave more for future generations." The mining sector has the potential of contributing P1.8 trillion yearly to the economy, according to her planning secretary.

In reversing its ruling that the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement that a foreign company entered into with the government was unconstitutional, the high court took into account the huge economic cost of losing foreign investments.

Protests by a community against mining will therefore be for naught as the Supreme Court has decided that mineral extraction involving foreign companies is "for the greater good of the greatest number." Never mind that economic growth in the country does not usually trickle down to the poor.

Never mind that mining can damage the environment by carving out whole mountains and by polluting rivers and seas with tailings, although some mining firms claim that they plant trees.

Never mind the "natural resource curse," a situation in which a developing country too dependent on resource extraction does not grow as fast as the one that is not hooked on it.

## The 'natural resource curse' is upon us

By Marvic M.V.F. Leonen

The small upland rural farmer does not stand a chance against the interests of mining companies. She does not stand a chance because government, which now includes the majority of the Supreme Court, has chosen to view the world from the eyes of mining companies.

In La Bugal vs Western Mining Co. (WMC) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the majority opinion chose to focus on the travails of the mining firm determined not simply to turn some profit but a lot of it. It specifically stated that in their business bargain, government does not contribute anything. It is the mining companies that take on all the risk since it is they that provide the financial capital.

The small farmer does not stand a chance because a lot of the things she is concerned with cannot be valued in pesos or dollars. Her contribution to make the soil productive, her desire not to make her family dependent on government, the human relations that have evolved in her neighborhood, the culture of her people, and the relationship with their ecologies are not taken into account. They cannot be taken into account precisely because they do not have a peso value. They are valuable because they have no peso value.

### Social disruption

Government, does not consider this capital. Thus, only the mining investor takes risks. If it is not capital, then the assumption is that it should not have as much importance as the interests of those with money.

The need for investments take precedence over the lives of poor communities. The pain of social disruption, cultural displacement and ecological destruction are things that, in our laws could be mitigated. Our government fears the flight of investors more than the displacement of poor powerless rural families. In the realpolitik of the politicians and bureaucrats that dominate our government this makes sense.

But not to the farmer who has to give up her land in order to be given the opportunity to clean bunkhouses of the mining engineers that set up shop in her neighborhood. She wonders whether her family or her community's sacrifice is worth the benefits that the general public will enjoy. She will forever wonder whether it is the public that will benefit or whether it is government or those in it that really gain.

### Slower growth

It is possible to read our Constitution differently. The world has turned many times since a specific kind of price theory or market equilibrium attracted the minds of leaders.

Caution has been expressed by the likes of Jeffrey Sachs, a noted economist, who called attention to what is now known as the "natural resource curse," i.e. that too much dependence on resource extraction would prevent a developing country from growing as fast as another developing country, which is not as dependent.

A study on US counties (our equivalent to barangays) directly dependent on mining showed that apart from slower growth, the phenomenon of high wages but high unemployment persists in these local economies. Even the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review has warned that developing countries must go slow on promoting mining.

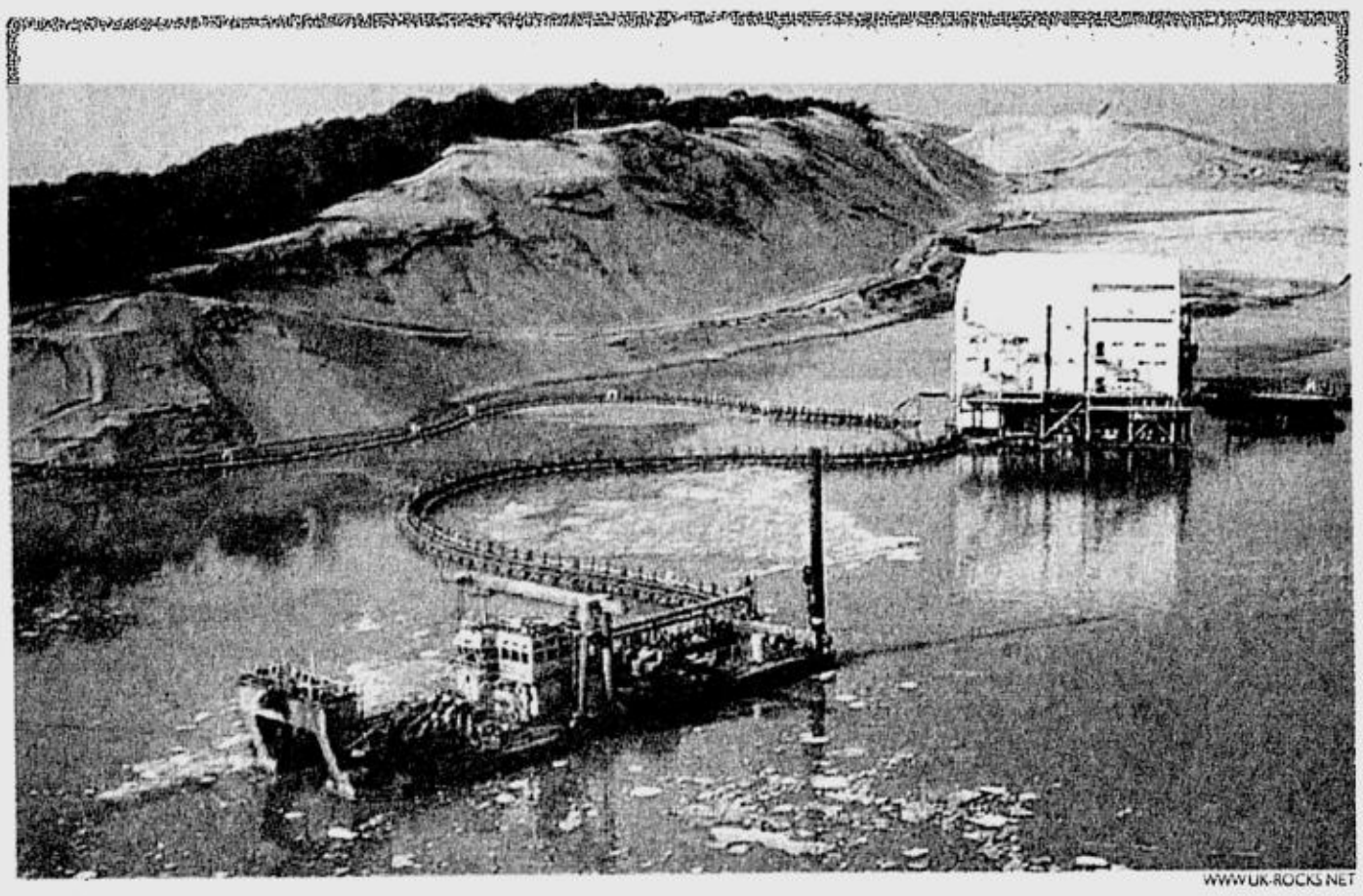
These findings are not simply matters of policy that should be debated in the halls of Congress. These are findings that put into question the premise that laws should not be restrictive when foreign mining interests are not satisfied with them. These should give pause to those that make judicial decisions—at least enough for them to check their assumptions when reading a provision.

For a country with many of our people living at the margins, surviving at the boundaries of what law provides, reality is more complex than the usual theories of price, market equilibrium and investment behavior.

We continue to wager our lives and the lives of our children by taking in the simplicities provided only by one view of the world—that of supply and demand, that the more money that comes into our economy the greater the good that it does.

Nature's logic is not that simplistic. We should not wait for the next erosion or typhoon to find this out.

*(Leonen is associate professor at the College of Law of the University of the Philippines; lead counsel for indigenous peoples who filed the Supreme Court petition in La Bugal vs WMC and DENR; chair, Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center Inc.)*



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## Industry can help reduce poverty

By Horacio C. Ramos

The history of mining in the country has led to less compassionate views about its contribution to development. However, using the legacy of past mining and today's standards as an argument to block new mine development is unreasonable.

Whether one is an environmentalist, an ordinary citizen, a businessman, or a pro- or anti-mining advocate, one only needs to look around to see how the products of mining are so pervasively entwined with our modern lives.

Mining, just like any human activity, affects the environment. The challenge is to seek a balance between the benefits and associated costs. But non-development also carries costs.

The importation of minerals and mineral products is an option but requires a level of economic maturity the country has yet to attain.

Much has been written on the mineral potential of the country, valued between $800 billion and $1 trillion. Monetizing a mere fraction of that is said to be more than enough to bail the country out of the economic crisis.

So, where lies the problem?

Since 1995, the DENR and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau have been implementing the Philippine Mining Act, a law founded on the principles of responsible mining. It elaborates on the pro-people, pro-environment framework for the local industry that encourages the participation of stakeholders and equitable sharing of benefits.

The law contains far more stringent environmental and social safety nets lacking or absent in previous mining laws. Among these are the Environmental Impact Assessment, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program, the Environmental Work Program and the Mine Decommissioning Plan—all of which seek to ensure the protection and rehabilitation of the disturbed environment and the health and safety of surrounding communities.

Notwithstanding, there are issues hounding the industry. Marcopper, the entry of foreign investors, displacement of communities and further environmental and social degradation are among the most repeated ones.

### Past sins

Yet, seemingly lost in the debate is how the industry has responded to changing expectations for and behavior toward mining. The industry has acknowledged its past sins and made progress in dealing with the impact of its operations. Barely noticed, or ignored, is the improvement in the industry's environmental and social performance, spearheaded, ironically, not only by local but also by foreign investors in cement companies and mineral exploration firms.

The mining industry has been, and will be, a global industry unless Filipinos invest hundreds of millions in the industry. The country has experienced the impact of a "Filipinized" mining industry from the mid-70s to the pre-Mining Act period with depressing results.

The industry was in a virtual standstill until the unprecedented policy declaration by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003. The President's support triggered a prolonged period of multi-stakeholder consultations that culminated in the development of a Mineral Action Plan. It identified issues that should be given preferential attention by government to ensure that mining is undertaken in a responsible, pro-people and pro-environment manner.

The Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of certain provisions of the Mining Act will create new opportunities. Given the impetus to grow, mining can contribute to poverty reduction in the countryside.

*(Ramos is a mining engineer by profession. His career started with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in 1969 and he has since risen from the ranks.)*

## 'We can't please everybody'

By Tony W. Robbins

The Arroyo administration wants a responsible mining industry but the funds involved in projects such as the Tampacan Mines in South Corabato are not available locally. We need foreign funding for projects that may take up some $350 million to $500 million.

The reversal of the Supreme Court ruling on the Philippine Mining Law gave foreign investors the go-signal to bring the money to local partners so they can develop the property. We can now invest with confidence and move forward.

A management team from Sagittarius Mines Inc., Indophil's foreign partner that took over the $1-billion Tampacan Mines, will be meeting this month and in January to come up with a program for the next two years.

We will advance the preparation of the pre-feasibility study to see the quality of the minerals we have at the site. A thorough environmental assessment will be conducted to determine how the minerals could be best treated using a particular technology. The study would detail the waste disposal down to how the ore would be transported.

### Employment

Everything will be carefully studied to make sure that everything is safe before we can commit to the operation of the mines. We want to do this as quickly as we can, but it will definitely take not less than two years to complete.

After the pre-feasibility study, there will be a commitment to construct. So we will gradually increase our workforce.

By next year alone, we will have about 200 employees more. Under the construction stage, we will have some 3,000 to 4,000 employees. During the operating stage we will add another 2,000. The employment that the mines will generate could cascade to their families and relatives.

Some 30 to 40 people like jeepney drivers, food providers and shopkeepers, who provide support services, will indirectly benefit from the project.

### Community approval

The main municipality of Tampacan and the five barangays and five indigenous communities are the main stakeholders in the project. They have given approval to the project.

But it is obvious that we cannot please everybody. We are actually in a very difficult situation here because people say if you try to help them you are buying their goodwill. Because we work in their area, we try to be responsible members of the local community. We need to work with them. We need the support of the people to move forward.

The research we have done indicated that a large percentage of the area has very low income. People will benefit from better employment with the project in their midst. In all our discussions with the local people, we found that they wanted improvement in their education and health standards.

We are currently assisting them with programs focused on education and health services. Since the company took over from Western Mining Corp. in 1999, we have continued its projects though the mining operations had been put on hold.

In areas where we previously drilled, we promote replanting and revegetation and some 30,000 to 40,000 seedlings have been in place.

*(As told to Christine Gaylican. Robbins is the managing director of IndoPhil Resources Philippines.)*

## Mining causes so much destruction

By Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso DD

On Dec. 2, television came out with on-the-spot reports on the plight of people wallowing in mud as they struggled to reach safe dry land. It was a tragic sight.

Lives, hundreds of them, were lost due to landslides and mudflows. All the blame was placed on logging. Yet, the pictures were ironic because below were a caption of the Supreme Court ruling, which upholds the constitutionality of the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) of a certain mining firm.

Seemingly, nothing was wrong with it, but the signal was sent: logging is the cause of floods and mudflows, mining is not.

Yet, the people in Samar know full well the effects of irresponsible mining and illegal logging. They have seen what disaster irresponsible mining has wrought. They have witnessed the lives of their loved ones taken away because of illegal logging. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has known this, too, for a fact.

### Beautiful land

It is along this line that the CBCP came up in 1989 with the statement titled "What is Happening to Our Beautiful Land," which said: "It is already late in the day and so much damage has been done. No one can pinpoint the precise moment when the damage becomes so irreversible that our living world will collapse.

"But we are rapidly heading in that direction. Even now there are signs of stress in every corner of our land. As we look at what is happening before our eyes, and think of the horrendous consequences for the land and the people we would do well to remember that God, who created this beautiful land, will hold us responsible for plundering it and leaving it desolate.

"So will future generations of Filipinos. Instead of gifting them with a fruitful land, all we will leave behind is a barren desert. We, the Bishops, call on all Filipinos to recognize the urgency of this task and to respond to it now," the statement said.

With the Supreme Court ruling, the Philippines is now open to foreign mining companies.

### Shift

In January 2004, the Court declared that FTAAs were, in fact, service contracts in which the government in effect granted a foreign corporation "beneficial ownership over natural resources that properly belong to the State and are intended for the benefit of citizens."

Being such, the FTAAs were prohibited by the Constitution and were "antithetical to the principle of sovereignty because they allowed foreign control over our natural resources to the prejudice of the Filipino people."

On Dec. 1, 2004, the interpretations shifted. Now the FTAAs that foreign companies could enter into with the government as part of the Mining Act is perfectly legal. The Supreme Court has discovered that the Constitution "expressly allows service contracts in large-scale exploration, development and utilization of minerals and mineral oils."

It has also discovered that the President is constitutionally mandated to enter into agreements with foreign-owned corporations, and that Congress has the right to review such contracts.

Oddly enough, there are constitutional provisions supporting both contrary decisions of the high court. What mattered was giving weight to one over the other.

The appeal of both the government and Western Mining Corp. focused on economic arguments. And so is the path pursued by the Supreme Court decision. The decision deliberates how the mining law should benefit the economy. "The Constitution should be read in broad life-giving strokes."

Whether mining should be done by local or foreign companies is not the issue. For us, mining itself is the issue. It causes so much destruction to the environment and so many lives destroyed. Mining is anti-life.

*(Medroso is the bishop of Borongan and member of the Samar Island National Park.)*

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# Rumor of overflowing river sends Quezon folk to panic

**LUCENA CITY—Panic gripped the still traumatized residents of Infanta town in northern Quezon after a false report that the Agus River was overflowing swept the town.**

Nida Azcaraga, a Dumagat leader from the Samahan ng mga Katutubo na Binabaka ang Suliranin Tungo sa Adhikain (Sakabinsa), a militant group of indigenous people from Sierra Madre, said that around 9:30 on Friday, an unconfirmed report swept the town that water in Agus River was rapidly rising.

"The people were thrown into panic and (they) scampered to safety, especially when the church bells tolled. With crying children in tow, the panicking residents rode on buses and whatever available vehicle just to immediately escape Infanta," she said over the phone.

"But it turned out later that the report was wrong. A drunk reportedly spread the news by shouting in the streets." Azcaraga said.

"All of us were still in trauma in losing not only our houses but also our loved ones and here comes this gross irresponsibility. The government officials should exercise more prudence and start formulating a plan so as not to repeat the incident," she said.

She said the Dumagat community, which was temporarily settled in one of the evacuation centers in the poblacion, did not join the stampede.

"Our elders immediately dispatched a group of male tribesmen to monitor the flow of Agus River. When the group came back and reported that everything was normal, we spread the information to help pacify the urban people," she said.

After more than 30 minutes and after the military and the police spread the news that the report was untrue, Azcaraga said, the people started to return to their houses, most of which suffered damages from the rampaging flash floods that swept the town more than two weeks ago.

According to Azcaraga, close to 200 Dumagat natives living in Sierra Madre from General Nakar town in Quezon down to Dingalan, Aurora, died in the flash floods and landslides.

A non-government organization criticized local government officials for the lack of disaster preparedness plans that would help address calamity problems. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# *Hunters victims of Army, says group*

BAGUIO CITY—Human rights advocates suspected military involvement in the spate of killings of farmers and hunters in Cordillera. They said the farmers and hunters were killed on suspicion that they were New People's Army rebels or sympathizers.

Beverly Longid, convenor of the Cordillera Human Rights Organizations (CHRO), said the killings should not be treated as isolated cases.

Based on CHRO records, since 2001 at least 12 farmers and hunters have been summarily executed while an NPA rebel has been tortured and killed, Longid said.

The CHRO findings were presented to the 2nd Cordillera Human Rights Assembly here on Friday.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), denied claims that the military had a hand in the killings but promised to look into them.

"We hope that we will be provided with (sufficient data) so we can have a bigger picture of the situation. We have to identify how many of those killed were farmers or hunters so we could check with the military commanders why there were reactions like these from human rights advocates," Monta told the INQUIRER by telephone.

A total of 1,074 cases of human rights violations from January 2001 to November 2004 have been documented, the CHRO said.

"These violations were directed against farmers and members of indigenous communities and militant groups that were critical to government policies, programs and projects. These violations range from harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention, illegal searches and seizures to killings of innocent civilians," the CHRO said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Reporters, police form task force

DUMAGUETE CITY—Journalists and the police in this city have formalized the creation of a body called Task Force Newsman that will respond to threats involving journalists.

Outgoing Dumaguete Police Director Constantino Barot met last Monday with Judy Flores Partlow and Edmund Sestoso of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, Dumaguete Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas chapter president Glynda Descuatan and Dumaguete Press Club president Alex Pal to discuss the mechanics of the agreement.

The body was formed following a series of killings of journalists in other parts of the country, with 12 fatalities this year, in addition to more than 50 fatalities in the last 20 years.

In that meeting, it was agreed that a hotline will be maintained between the journalists and police to ensure coordination and swift action. Journalists are also encouraged to maintain a logbook detailing any potential threats to their lives in the course of their duties. *PDI Visayas Bureau*

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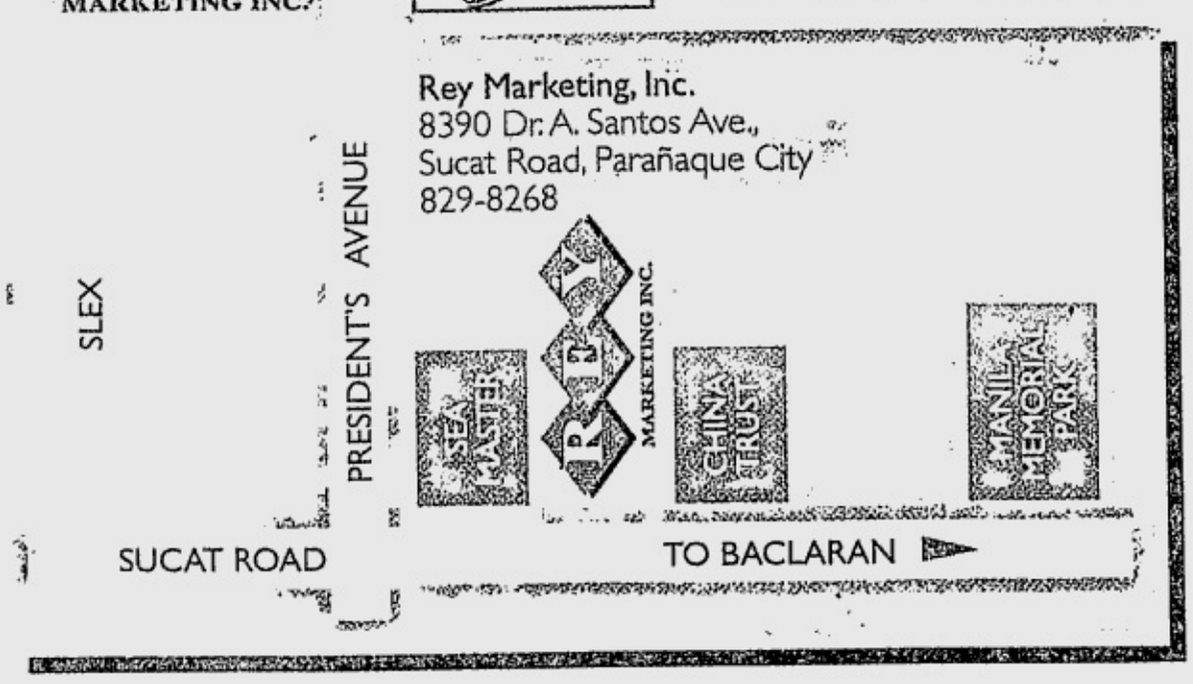


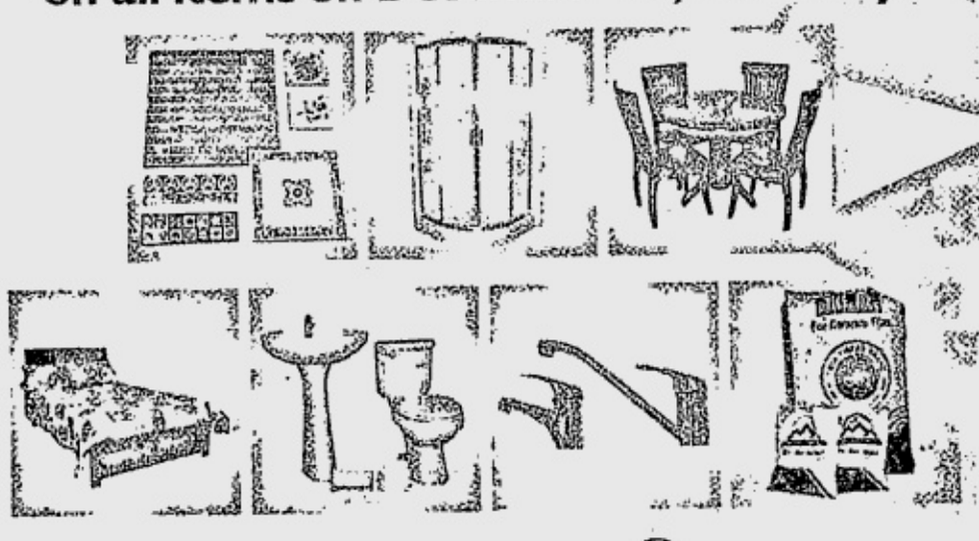

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6038, Series of 2004

# More generating units planned to boost Negros power supply

By Alex V. Pal
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—Power industry officials have assured sufficient power for Negros Oriental with the addition of more power generating units to the Visayas Grid this month.

The assurance came during a recent meeting with Gov. George Arnaiz to assess the power situation in the province in the wake of sporadic brownouts.

"We are marketing the province as an ideal investment destination and we have been getting visits from several potential investors. However, in one instance, a brownout hit my office five times while I was briefing a potential investor," the governor complained.

Jimmy Sevilla, head of the National Transmission Corporation in the Visayas, told the governor that the Negros-Cebu-Panay power grid will be complemented with a power barge, which was to be moved from Bohol to Cebu on Dec. 15, and the activation of Salcon's gas turbine later this month.

Both power sources are expected to pump in 44 megawatts more into the grid, which is largely powered by the geothermal fields of Tongongan town in Leyte and Valencia town in Negros Oriental.

The Bohol power barge, Sevilla explained, is no longer needed there because Bohol is now getting its power from the geothermal plant in Leyte.

Aside from Sevilla, also at the meeting were officials of the National Power Corp. (Napocor), the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and the Negros Oriental Electric Cooperative 2 (Noreco 2).

Provincial officials and members of the Negros Oriental Investments Promotion Center and the Negros Oriental Business Development Foundation also attended the meeting.

Danny Catigtig, manager of the PNOC Southern Negros Geothermal Field, said their operations are proceeding normally, although the expansion program, which would increase the capacity of the Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant, has been put on hold due to the fiscal crisis.

Negros Island's power-generating capability will be enhanced in 2006 with the commissioning of a power plant in Bago City, Negros Occidental, Catigtig said.

Rudy Pacana, Napocor manager for Negros Oriental, said the total output of electricity from the geothermal power plant is 192.5 mW and almost all of it is consumed on Negros Island.

**GAPING WOUND**
An environment official measures the diameter of one of the 314 decades-old acacia trees that were felled at the Iwahig Penal Colony. (See story and related photo on p.19) PHOTO FROM CENRO

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## 6,000 houses needed for evacuees

PAGLAT, Maguindanao—At least 6,000 core shelters need to be constructed for the rehabilitation of families in conflict-affected areas of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), but funds are simply not enough.

A nipa hut, a typical shelter worth at least P25,000, is all it takes to house a family of seven here.

"Our physical target for the entire ARMM region is about 6,000 core shelters," Hadja Bainon Karon, ARMM social welfare secretary, said.

She said they wanted to build more core shelters, but funds are not readily available.

Core shelters refer to the makeshift huts that the government, various nongovernment organizations and foreign donors have been building in the region.

Citing Maguindanao as an example, Karon said that the government, in partnership with the private sector and foreign donors, had already constructed about 2,000 structures.

But she said thousands of other displaced families also need their own shelters.

She said many of them have been living with relatives.

Karon said that because of the uncertainty of funds, she could not ascertain when the construction of the core shelters would be completed.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said it has built some 200 core shelters for the displaced families.

Aveen Acuna-Gulo, UNDP communication specialist, said they were targeting about 10,000 beneficiaries for reintegration into their former communities.

"Peace and development must come together," Benjamin Abadiano of Tabang Mindanaw said.

*Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Court junks bail plea

OZAMIS CITY—A local court recently junked the petition of Misamis Occidental's most-wanted crime suspect to reduce the P400,000 bail set for his temporary liberty. Carlito Manos has been charged with direct assault with frustrated murder and violation of the election gun ban. In February this year, he traded shots with police authorities in Tangub City. Two policemen were wounded in the shootout. If convicted of the charges, Manos could face a prison term of up to 30 years, according to government lawyer Geronimo Marave *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Village chiefs as law enforcers

OZAMIS CITY—With only around 50 policemen, the city government said it would deputize village chiefs to serve as law enforcers. Vice Mayor Carlos Patricio Bernad said part of the plan was to provide village chiefs with handguns. The INQUIRER learned that the city government has set aside P900,000 to implement the plan. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Davao consumers' demand

MATI, Davao Oriental-- Consumers in Davao Oriental have asked the National Electrification Administration to stop the Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative Inc. (Doreco) from implementing the P50 penalty it imposes on delinquent consumers. In its letter to the NEA, residents here said Doreco imposed the penalty without approval from the general assembly. Residents said the imposition of the penalty may be acceptable to big delinquent consumers "but definitely unreasonable and unacceptable to small ones." But Doreco general manager Gregory Dukil said he was just implementing the policy crafted by their cooperative's board of directors *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Councilor ambushed

PAGADIAN CITY—Unidentified gunmen ambushed a member of the city council here on Dec. 8. Sultan Abdul Marcaban, president of the city's association of barangay chairs, and some of his bodyguards were on their way to his gas station in Barangay Tawagan Sur when they were fired upon. Marcaban and one of the bodyguards were wounded in the attack, but police said they were in stable condition. Investigators are trying to establish the motive behind the attack. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*




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I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 10:00pm, on ABC.

text 2910

**Pasko sa taghirap, dapat pa bang magpasarap?**

Narito ang ilan sa mga sagot nilnyo. Text na!

"d na po,d naman talaga kailangan ng maraming handa sa pasko mas maganda kung sama sama lahat ng pamilya kahit konting handa lang"
Miko Briones, Pasig City

"taghirap o hindi taon taon dumarating pasko nasa tao na kung paano siya magpapasarap"
Gene Torres, Laguna

# Landslide blocks Quezon town highway

LUCENA CITY—A landslide blocked a portion of a major highway in a Quezon town, blocking traffic for at least five hours and delaying the travel of hundreds of motorists and commuters.

Loose soil gave way on the right lane of the highway in Barangay Sta. Catalina in Atimonan, Quezon, at past midnight yesterday.

No one was hurt.

Marlo Cervantes, member of the Kabalikat communications group in Atimonan, said boulders as big as jeeps rolled down the hill and blocked the highway.

He described the area as a dangerous spot. He said it was the third landslide in the same spot this year.

"Luckily, no one was injured," he said.

He said light vehicles were made to take a detour to an old zigzag road.

Members of the communications group, he said, manned traffic on the zigzag road to prevent accidents.

The road's curves are tight and the road is very steep that vehicles have to slow down on their way up, he said.

Pieces of heavy equipment were sent by the local government of Atimonan to clear the highway of debris and boulders and at about 7 a.m. yesterday, the highway was made passable.

"We waited for the sun to shine before the clearing operation as additional security measure," Cervantes said.

The landslide brought back memories of the disaster that continues to hound Quezon and Aurora provinces.

The disaster has led to efforts to help the victims and fund-raising programs like the one that officials and the people of Mindoro launched for the calamity victims.

A telethon called Oplan Sagip Bayan, Sagip Lalawigan was able to raise P83,500 in cash and pledges and relief goods for the calamity victims in Quezon and Aurora.

Arnan Panaligan, acting Oriental Mindoro governor, said the best and worst of Mindoro folk were challenged during the telethon on Nov. 23-26.

Mayor Celestino Papasin of Mansalay town appealed for help, saying that assistance was mostly directed to Roxas town.

"We are also heavily affected," he said.

After hearing Papasin, help started to come in.

"I will donate from my savings," said a young student.

A cooperative of port workers gave P5,000.

"Thank God, we're not affected, I'm giving my precious P100," said a housemaid who still supports her three married children.

A stroke survivor collected clothes from her household and sent her collected items to the telethon organizers.

Since assistance from different groups poured into the damaged areas, the organizers decided to suspend the distribution until a careful assessment of the intended beneficiaries is made.

Panaligan directed the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council to coordinate all incoming assistance and donations for a more efficient distribution.

In the Calabarzon area, police gave up their annual Christmas party to help fund relief operations in Quezon and Aurora.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla, Calabarzon police director, said they decided to shell out P150,000 of their funds intended for the party and other operational expenses so they could continue to provide bottled water, canned goods and needed medicines for Quezon residents.

"It will be unpleasant if we insist to have a party in these trying times. Many PNP units, including the general headquarters, have decided to cancel their parties," Varilla told the INQUIRER.

*Delfin Mallari Jr., Madonna Virola and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

**A PORTION** of the cleared area showing what was left of acacia trees that were cut allegedly on orders of the Iwahig Penal Colony's officials and employees. PHOTO FROM CENRO

# *'Massacre' of 314 acacia trees denounced*

THE SUPERINTENDENT, 11 employees and several inmates of the Iwahig Penal Colony are in hot water for the wanton destruction of decades-old and young acacia trees in a protected forest reserve inside the prison facility.

The outrage over the large-scale illegal cutting of at least 314 20-to-30-year old acacia trees in what is known to be the country's most environment-conscious and protective local government unit has prompted an immediate demand for the ouster of Iwahig Supt. Catalino Malinao by Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

Hagedorn, in a press statement, said he also ordered the filing of anti-graft charges against erring officials and employees involved in the tree cutting.

He said logging has been outlawed in Puerto Princesa and the whole of Palawan for more than 12 years now.

"A total log ban is in effect yet the highest official of Iwahig Penal Colony allowed such a senseless, unconscionable massacre of acacia trees," Hagedorn's statement said.

According to reports submitted by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Puerto Princesa and the Bantay Gubat teams, more than 314 20-to-30-year old acacia trees, including saplings, were illegally cut by inmates on orders of 12 employees and prison guards who laid claim to the forest reservation.

The 12 employees, using the inmates, have been clearing the area and building structures after the massive falling of the acacia and bangkal trees, the reports said.

Hagedorn said "it was ironic in the light of the recent tragedy that befell Quezon province and some parts of Luzon because of illegal logging that such an illegal and massive tree-cutting spree could happen in Puerto Princesa and worse, in a government-run facility."

"Adding insult to injury, Superintendent Malinao in a live interview over radio station dyPR last Dec. 15 openly admitted that he allowed the clearing in the area and the cutting of the acacia trees for firewood," said Hagedorn.

"This is a classic case of the protector, the highest government official in Iwahig, becoming the destroyer of the forests under his care," the mayor said.

Hagedorn brushed aside Malinao's justification as a "lame excuse considering the size and volume of illegally cut acacia logs confiscated."

"Even acacia saplings were not spared. Cutting down 314 decades-old acacia trees for firewood won't sell. This is unconscionable illegal logging plain and simple," he said.

Bing Camacho, an employee, was tagged as claimant by inmates Joel Cutizano, Bimbo Badajo and Abraham Pablo who were clearing the area.

Mailed Moolina, an employee from Montible was tagged as claimant by inmates Miguel Balbino, Edwin Olepernis and Joselito Pood who were sent to clear the area allegedly by Molina.

A certain Sir Apid, a prison guard, sent inmates Ernesto Veranco, Sixto Lemon and Romulo Sumulat.

Hagedorn demanded the immediate relief of Malinao and the 12 employees to prevent them from harassing and intimidating the inmates.

# Farmers charged with trespassing seek help

SORSOGON CITY—Farmers of Hacienda Peralta, a 44-hectare property in Barangay Guinlajon in this city, trooped to the Department of Agrarian Reform office here on Thursday and Friday to ask the assistance of the agency to intervene in their case.

The 31 farmers of Hacienda Peralta had been charged with trespassing by Bebot Peralta, the owner of the property.

According to the farmers headed by Rodolfo Labayo, they had a verbal agreement with Peralta to till the land.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas in the province has urged DAR provincial officials to see if Hacienda Peralta is subject to land reform.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer Emerson Morral, however, has already given orders to the City Agrarian Reform Office to expedite the process of land acquisition and distribution and prepare the farm workers to qualify as farmer-beneficiaries.

According to a DAR insider, the process could take six months if there will be no resistance from the owners of the property. *Jerico Lagonoy, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Baguio calm after death of man due to meningo

BAGUIO CITY—The reported death of a 43-year-old man here of suspected meningococcemia, a fatal strain of meningitis, failed to raise alarm from Baguio residents who a month ago started popping antibiotics like candies over a rumored outbreak.

Dr. Florence Reyes, Baguio Health Department director and spokesperson of Task Force Meningo, said the man died at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center on Wednesday and was buried hours later.

Reyes said the victim showed symptoms of meningococcemia although initial laboratory findings showed no traces of the bacteria Neisseria meningiditis in his blood.

Although there were text messages circulating about more suspected meningococcemia cases, Baguio residents were no longer queuing for rifampicin and ciprofloxacin, antibiotics identified as chemical prophylaxis or preventive medicine against this strain of meningitis.

No one was also seen wearing surgical masks along Session Road, except for drivers and cigarette vendors protecting themselves from engine fumes.

If tests would confirm that the latest victim died of meningococcemia, he would be the 10th fatality in Baguio and La Trinidad.

Four people were reported killed by meningococcemia last month. Three of the victims attended the wake of a meningococcemia fatality. The resulting announcement caused widespread panic in this mountain resort city.

Hong Kong's Center for Health Protection (CHP) recently issued an advisory asking its residents and visitors to be more careful while traveling to Baguio.

"Cover the nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and oral discharge properly," the CHP press statement said. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# 6 towns, city in Negros bear bad news for their employees

**By Romy G. Amarado**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—Six towns and a city in Negros Oriental cannot give the additional cash gift which has been anticipated by their employees with the onset of the Christmas season.

The towns of Vallahermoso, Guihulngan, Jimalalud, Tayasan, Ayungon and Dauin and the city of Bais could not release the additional cash gift to their employees either because of financial woes or because they went beyond the budgetary requirement set by the Department of Budget Management (DBM) for personnel services.

In its directive released early this month to local government units in the province, the DBM said the LGUs may give additional cash gifts to their employees subject to the availability of funds.

The DBM also told the LGUs that the cash gift should not go beyond the 45 percent budgetary requirement for personnel services.

This means that the budget for the employees of an LGU should not exceed 45 percent of the annual budget of the locality.

Jimalalud Mayor Reynaldo Tuanda said his town cannot afford to give the additional cash gift because it does not have money for the purpose.

He said Jimalalud has been financially saddled with P14 million in debt, which he said he inherited from his predecessor.

Mayors Jonnifer Villegas of Vallahermoso, Ernesto Reyes of Guihulngan, Isidro Anthony Bayawa of Tayasan, Edsel Enardecido of Ayungon and Rodrigo Alanano of Dauin also pointed to lack of financial capability as the reason for their failure to give additional cash gift to their employees.

But in the case of Bais, the political bickering between the chief executive and the majority of the city council is one of the main reasons the city government does not want to give the benefit.

Bais City Mayor Hector "Tata" Villanueva, said he was not inclined to give the cash gift because, aside from the financial difficulty being experienced by the city, many casual workers are not yet paid their salaries because the city council refused to appropriate the money for their pay. Villanueva did not elaborate on the matter.

The municipalities of La Libertad, Manjuyod, Mabinay, San Jose, Sibulan, Bacong, Zamboanguita and Sta. Catalina are still trying to figure out if they are capable of giving the additional benefit to their employees.

But the cities of Bayawan, Dumaguete and Tanjay and the towns of Pamplona, Amlan, Valencia, Siaton and Basay have decided to give additional cash gift to their employees, which would range from P5,000 to P20,000.

The provincial government is also preparing to release the additional P5,000 cash gift to its almost 2,000 employees.

# 2 new eaglets hatched in captivity break out of shells

DAVAO CITY—Two great news for conservationists trying to save the country's national bird from extinction as Christmas approaches.

On Friday, the 18th eaglet bred and hatched in captivity broke out of its shell at the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) center here.

The new eaglet, which weighed 125.3 grams, is the eighth surviving offspring of natural eagle pair Ka Brianne and Jag.

Ka Brianne and Jag is the most prolific in the center's conservation breeding program. They produced eight of the surviving birds.

On Dec. 14, the 17th bird, a 163.6 grams eaglet, was hatched.

The PEF said it was the heaviest hatchling in the 20-year history of the center.

Both eaglets remain unnamed.

"This eaglet seems very strong as if it is making up for our difficulties last year," Domingo Tadena, PEF deputy director for conservation breeding, said.

The PEF said aside from the two hatchlings, the center also retrieved a maturing male eagle in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur.

The eagle named "Kantilan," suffered a gunshot wound in the right breast and was captured by workers of a tree plantation in the area.

"Kantilan," is the third Philippine eagle retrieved by the PEF team in Surigao del Sur.

Surigao del Sur forms part of the species-rich Eastern Mindanao Corridor, an area in which the PEF has been working for the conservation of the few remaining forest blocks on Mindanao island.

Since 1992, the PEF successfully bred and hatched 18 eaglets but only 16 survived.

The first eaglet produced by the center was through artificial insemination. It was hatched on Jan. 15, 1992 and was named Pag-asa.

The center now has 32 eagles, including those caught in the wild.

One of the tasks of the PEF is to develop public awareness and understanding of the natural environment of the birds.

The PEF also provides a venue and continually develops materials to educate the nation about wildlife resources and the urgent need to conserve them.

Like all previously hatched eaglets, Ka Brianne and Jag and the two newly hatched birds need godparents, who would foot the bill for their feeds and other expenses.

The PEF-Adopt-an-Eagle Program aims to provide private individuals and companies the chance to become godparents of an eagle for P100,000 per year for six years.

PEF president Carlos Pedrosa in a statement appealed for support for eagles Ka Brianne and Jag.

"The two have given all of us eight wonderful gifts and a lot of hope that the Philippine eagle will continue to thrive. We hope someone helps us provide for the needs of Jag and Ka Brianne," he said. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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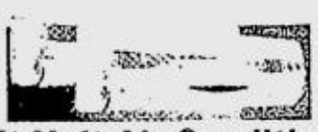

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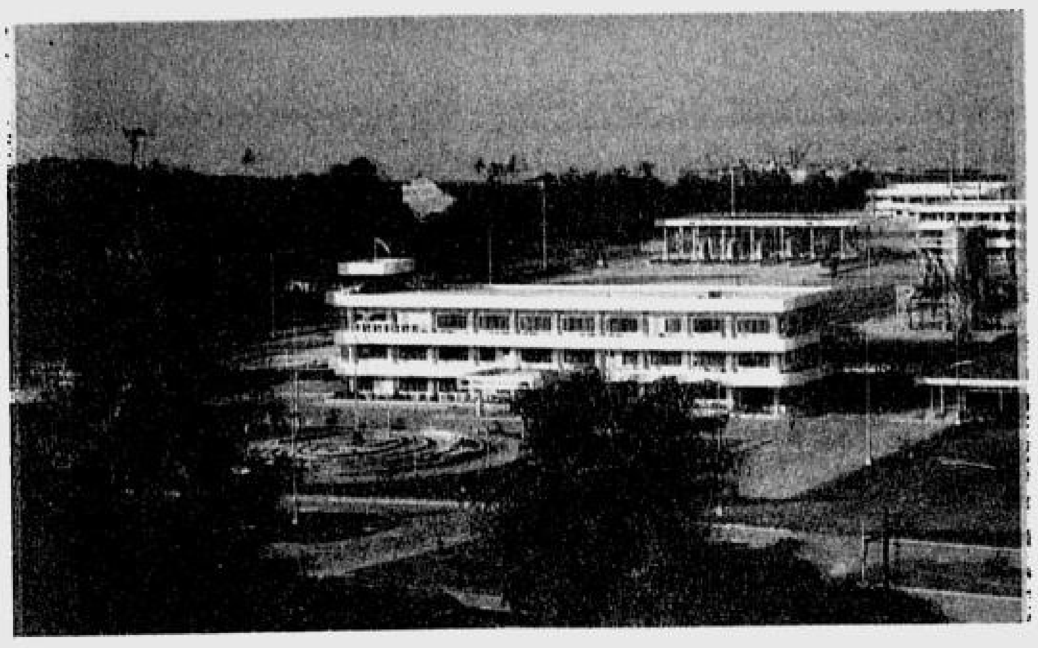


THE NEW administration building within the Mindanao International Container Terminal Port inside the Phividec International Estate in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. COURTESY OF PHIVIDEC

# The P4-billion white elephant of N. Mindanao

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
*Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental*

NORTHERN Mindanao has a P4-billion white elephant. The Mindanao International Container Terminal Port (MICTP), located at the 3,000-hectare Phividec Industrial Estate in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, has stopped its operations since April this year after a local court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) three days after President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated it.

The TRO stemmed from a complaint filed by the Oroport Cargohandling Services Inc., alleging that the Phividec Industrial Authority (PIA) has no legal authority over the holding of operations in the MICTP and that it gave unfair competition to the Cagayan de Oro port.

The business sector in the region said MICTP's non-operation has stifled the development of Northern Mindanao as it was designed to support the region's attempt to become the major transshipment hub and a potent economic stabilizer of the country.

Some businessmen criticized the local court's action as undermining the commitment of the Arroyo administration to pump up economic development in Mindanao.

The Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce, in its position paper signed by 13 business organizations, said the MICTP is just another government-initiated project that has turned into a major fiasco.

Instead of generating income, it has now become a liability as it is bound to pay the 1 percent per annum interest of the P3.5-billion loan acquired from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC). The payment of the principal loan is due in 2010.

## Fears

The business sector fears that the continued non-operation would put to waste the expensive state-of-the-art port facilities such as the two loading and unloading cranes, 266 reefer vans, traffic radar system for vessels and modern truck scales, which could deteriorate, and its huge investment would require debt-servicing and eventually add up to the fiscal burden of the country.

They also fear that investors would think twice before coming here because of the negative signal the case brings.

The revenue from port charges and cargo handling in six years at MICTP is projected to be about P1.6 billion.

PIA projections also show a 22-percent annual increase in revenue from this year on to 2014.

The project is also expected to create another one million jobs in the agri-industrial sector in six years to complement the government's job creation target.

PIA administrator Gabriel Evangelista disclosed that JBIC has already inquired about the stalled operations at the MICTP and how an injunction could be ordered in this project.

"The government's credibility is now at stake and it is embarrassing the Arroyo administration," Evangelista lamented.

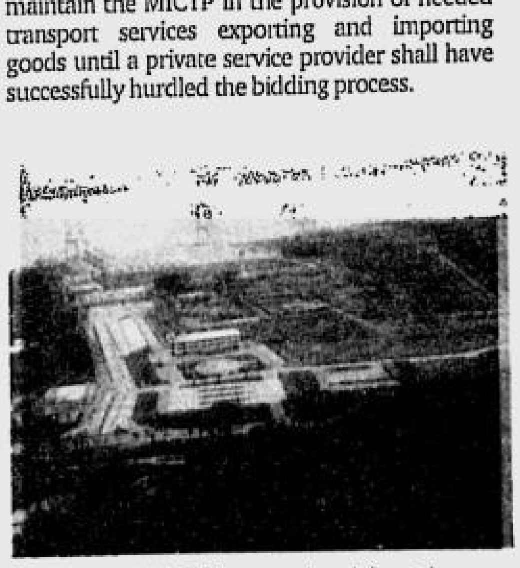
The MICTP, during its operations in April this year, had serviced only six international standard vessels.

The business sector is urging the President to call for an immediate resolution of the MICTP-PIA debacle with Oroport.

Businessmen also called on the justice department to look into the authority of the local court in issuing a TRO against a government-initiated project.

They also believe that it is vital that a special technical committee be created to study and monitor the impact of the project on the lives of the people of Mindanao when it is allowed to operate again.

That committee, the businessmen added, should also grant the authority to the PIA to construct, install, establish, promote, operate and maintain the MICTP in the provision of needed transport services exporting and importing goods until a private service provider shall have successfully hurdled the bidding process.



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# RP K9 team on the ready for search, rescue missions

From page A1

Renee J. Speltz is diminutive in size only. Otherwise, the pretty heroine is big as life, determined to make the Philippines the region's responder for canine search and rescue missions. No other country in Southeast Asia, or even South Asia, has this capability. Thanks to her determination, against a multitude of daunting, frustrating episodes, we do.

The founding chair of the Philippine Canine Search and Rescue Association Inc. and her team of trainers and their dogs are dedicated men and women whose motto is "to save human lives."

"Meeting Vivian de Veyra was serendipity," Renee says. She had been looking to buy a pet Labrador when she met De Veyra, a dog breeder. "Our meeting was like igniting a rocket. Vivian recognized the need, and I recognized the need for the country," for the K9 SAR teams they quickly organized.

## 50 volunteers

"I see her as the dreamer of such a setup, and think of myself as the igniter. Vivian spread the word to friends who told other friends. When we put out a word-of-mouth search for volunteers, we ended up with 50 volunteers who wanted to become dog handlers." Some were mountaineers who had lost friends, other had lost family members in the Baguio earthquake, or witnessed someone who died in the Payatas garbage dump landslide.

"We wanted to make sure our guys were trained to the highest level of search and rescue capability, modelling our program after that of the United States National Association for Search and Rescue. That way, all agencies from the public and private sectors with whom we sign a memorandum of agreement to help them out would know our people are professionally trained to international standards."

Working dogs most sought after for this highly specialized work are Labradors, golden retrievers, boxers, German shepherds, Belgian melanois, rottweilers and beagles. Newfoundlanders are very good in water searches, but all these dogs can work in water. Dogs have five million scent cells, and individual dogs have even more, and can be star performers, scenting farther and moving quicker. Humans, by comparison, only have a million scent cells.

## Non-verbal communication

"The relationship between a dog and his handler is crucial. They must both have a sort of extrasensory perception. The handler knows his dog so well that he can read every movement: a swinging tail, a movement of the ears. They can't say 'hello, there's a human under this rubble.' The non-verbal communication is specific to each team. The dog is saying 'I haven't found anything,' or 'I found something,'" Renee explained.

That relationship was put to the test last week in Real and, before that, on Mount Halcon in Mindoro, searching for missing mountaineer Frana Escalante. The girl's body was found by Mangyan tribesmen.

Renee said, "We have a MOA with the National Disaster Coordinating Council stating not only that we do exercises together, but also that we are always there to help NDCC with any disaster situation they want us to help with. We did a big exercise with NDCC in July. The first annual earthquake simulation exercise had 25 public and private sector participants at Camp Aguinaldo. It was the first time ever that these agencies came to work together for a simulation.

"An Incident Command Post was set up first, and the Philippine National Police and the Metro Manila Development Authority cordoned off the 'disaster area.' Structural engineers inspected the 'building,' then K9 teams went in simultaneously after the engineers had given the all-clear. A team went in with the Red Cross, another with MMDA, another with International SOS, or with the Army First Responders, or the Philippine Air Force SAR 505. A total of roughly 150 participated in the NDCC exercise. Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita was guest of honor.

## Waiting to be called

"Fast-forward four-and-a-half months later to a real disaster in Real, Quezon. We waited to be called, but no one called us. We finally called NDCC to say our guys were on full stand-by, ready to go, but no one follows-up. Nothing happens.

"When we heard the US Marines were coming, we called US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone. The US Marines made contact with the Philippine Air Force, which asked us to go to the PAF staging area. Three of our teams showed up, but were told they were low priority when, in fact, we should have been highest priority."

Finally, only one team—a dog, his handler and a flanker, who assists the handler, got to leave, fully eight days after the calamity.

## 2 miracles

On the ground the afternoon before deployment to Real, two miracles happened. Motorola coughed up eight donated handheld radios, and Napoleon Nazareno, Smart president, on a few hours' notice, produced eight satellite phones lent to PHK9SAR.

**RENEE SPELTZ to the rescue but not with her pet Labrador "who's too sociable" and flunked the search and rescue training.**

In Real, the dog got to work, scenting bodies under the rubble in short shrift. The barangay captain serving as the Incident Command Post was informed by the team that the victims had been located, and diggers were needed to extract the cadavers.

Heartbreaking was his response—diggers wouldn't be necessary, heavy equipment would—meaning that decapitated body parts, instead of whole bodies which could be properly identified and buried by relatives, would be retrieved.

## K9 capability ignored

"What will happen when the next disaster comes? Are we going to lose lives unnecessarily again because the K9 capability of the Philippines is being ignored?" Renee lamented.

The Golden Hour principle is the period of time within which lives can be saved, and injuries minimized. The best chances for finding survivors is within 100 hours. It takes from 48 to 72 hours to fly in canine SAR teams from the US and for the dogs to get adjusted, leaving very little time for a successful rescue. The time a dog and his handler would take to locate a victim would equal 30 persons in the same period.

"I want the dogs to be here in Asia. It takes five hours to fly from the Philippines to Japan, five hours to Beijing, three hours to Taiwan, and four hours to Korea. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are eight hours away, so that still leaves us over 90 hours to find live victims.

"I made a point to learn the ropes here," Renee said. "When something becomes a passion, you go out, you learn. The volunteers and I don't do it for ourselves. We're doing it to save lives."

Volunteers have regular eight-to-five jobs, training on weekends or after work, but ever-ready to take off on a mission with their dogs. "No one is looking for glory. We only want to be able to work together with any other agency involved in a search."

Spending a day in Virginia at a Homeland K9 training facility, then returning to the Philippines, Renee contacted a Filipino trainer who had trained overseas, to train her group.

"Originally, PHK9SAR had planned to bring in trainers from overseas. But the private sector didn't respond when I went to see them." She also gave speeches to Rotary Clubs and foreign chambers of commerce, "we had articles and pictures everywhere," but still no response. "It didn't seem to be important then."

"When the World Bank report came out that the Philippines was the most disaster-prone country in the world, we didn't wait for the private sector to wake up. With the money we had from volunteers who pitched in, we decided to go ahead and start training," Renee said. One suspects Renee also picked her husband's pockets (he is Ambassador Paul Speltz, US executive director at the Asian Development Bank).

"No is just a word; it doesn't mean anything. You just have to keep chipping away until you have Michaelangelo's David. Don't take no for an answer," Renee said.

Eleven men-and-dog teams were selected after screening the 50 who showed up. The dog has to pass screening, and the handler, too, separately. If the dog passes but not his owner-handler, his owner can opt to give the dog to the association which assigns a handler. Conversely, if the owner passes the handler's screening but his dog doesn't, they find him another dog.

## Obedience training

Obedience training for dogs has to start at the puppy stage, from birth to nine months (the equivalent of a seven-year-old human). As they develop, they need socialization training, to learn to control their impulses, to be with other dogs, to ride in a car, so they don't panic when they are transported by car, truck or helicopter.

Dogs can be really intelligent and make good pets, but may not necessarily make good search dogs. Renee's beloved Tex, a chocolate Lab, flunked the screening. "He can't concentrate when there are a lot of dogs around because he's too sociable. He likes other dogs too much."

Training for handlers is rigorous. Renee explained: "You have to understand human psychology, and dog psychology. This is not walking a pretty dog. You don't wear lipstick and nail polish. You have to be in very good physical shape. You have to be okay with dead and decomposing body parts, blood, sweat." Not for the faint-hearted or squeamish.

## 15 handlers trained

Compass and map-reading, rappelling, or hanging from a chopper with handler and dog strapped in a harness, emergency medical and first-aid training are part of a handler's training.

Among the 15 handlers trained thus far are Dominic Kabigting, Louie Sta. Ana, Joselito de la Cruz Baldemar, Byron de la Cruz, Edison Vergara, Joseph Salva, Ryan Sta. Ana, Nimuel Laraquel, Bong Cariño and Noel Mapua Lim, who heads operations.

The association's offices are in Paco, in space offered by the Limcaoco family, sporting four computers given by Oracle. Anyone wanting to join or offer donations monetary or in kind, may e-mail phk9sar@yahoo.com.

"The turning point of my life was 9/11—Sept. 11, 2001, when planes crashed into both towers of the World Trade Center, where my husband Paul's investment bank lost several people while he was in Singapore. It was a very personal thing, gut-wrenching, deep level," Renee said.

She watched as dog teams were brought in. "My whole life became before and after 9/11. We came here as a result of that."

Renee, who is armed with a master's degree in psychology and has worked with children, sees herself as an educator and a fund-raiser. "Our mission statement is very simple: to educate, to train, and to serve."

# 'Simbang Gabi' now in US, keeps Filipinos sleepless in Seattle

From page A1

work, I go all the way to Seattle to attend it, if only to see the *parol* (lanterns) hung near the altar, representing the parishes involved in this Advent devotion.

For this I am thankful to Dr. Telly Muldong-Tantay, a retired physician with the rank of captain in the US Navy and now a member of the Asian Pacific American Advisory Board of the Archdiocese of Seattle. She has been promoting Filipino Christian values and founded the San Lorenzo Ruiz Guild of the Our Lady, Star of the Sea parish.

## Kimona in freezing weather

I remember the first time I attended the Commissioning Mass at St. James Cathedral. In the freezing downpour, the bus going to the ferry terminal was filled with passengers like me, clad in our native *kimona* and *barong* underneath heavy coats and thick jackets.

Covered and protected from the elements, two *parol* were brought on board. One was from the Our Lady, Star of the Sea parish, the other from Holy Trinity, where I belong.

During the 45-minute trip to Seattle, across Puget Sound, the ferry bobbed with the rhythm of the raging waves. However, amid the fury of the elements, there was a collective calmness among the passengers.

Because of the cold December weather and rushed workday mornings, *simbang gabi* is celebrated at night followed by a reception, ranging from a simple *merienda* to an extravagant *fiesta*, complete with cultural entertainment.

Last year, the commissioning rites were moved to a noontime weekend Mass in order to accommodate those from the working class and to allow an easier commute for those who had to travel from the far ends of western Washington, especially during inclement weather.

## Dazzling procession

As I entered the 100-year-old St. James Cathedral—a fine example of Italian Renaissance style—I was immediately made aware of the Divine presence by the Latin mosaic inscription *Domus Dei, Porta Coeli* (House of God, Gate of Heaven) on the floor.

After admiring the stained glass windows and the exquisitely crafted, paneled ceiling, which emulated the coffering techniques of some of the great cathedrals and basilicas of Europe, I proceeded toward the sanctuary which was positioned at a cross point where the transepts intersected. At the center of the sanctuary stood the altar, beneath a circular skylight called the *oculus Dei* (eye of God).

Then the lights were diffused and the first chords of Advent music from the pipe organ reverberated. Subsequently, rays of crimson, azure, emerald and gold radiated from a procession of *parol* of varied sizes, shapes and colors, illuminating the path toward the sanctuary.

Fastened on poles and carried by parish coordinators, the *parol* dazzled with the brilliance of kaleidoscopic sequences and others, more traditional in design, glowed with subtlety and grace. This stunning exhibition of lights was followed by the procession of altar servers, deacons and priests, culminating in the arrival of the archbishop.

## Filipino pride

Touched by the radiance of the *parol*, the archbishop stood in the midst of the parish coordinators gathered around the sanctuary and performed the commissioning rites that commenced the first novena Mass of the *simbang gabi*.

A choir of about a hundred members from various parishes joined in celestial harmony with renditions of Filipino liturgical compositions. As songs of exaltation filled the air, a huge, golden five-point star descended from the ceiling, preceding a stream of smaller stars. It remained suspended over the altar.

My heart swelled with Filipino pride.

## Serenade for archbishop

But what touched me most was the archbishop's brief yet impressive salutation in Tagalog, and his powerful message to the congregation, portraying the *parol* as the Light of Christ.

This year, in appreciation of the archbishop's tremendous support of *simbang gabi*, a serenade in Filipino fashion will honor him when he makes his entrance to the banquet hall this year.

## Pilgrimage

The essence of this celebration is in the spirituality shared by a diverse community of believers. For me and for countless others who observe this Advent devotion, the gathering in Seattle has become a pilgrimage.

# In Havana, it's beginning to look a bit like Christmas

From page A1

prisoners with the slogan "Fascists Made In USA;" red flags emblazoned with Nazi crosses.

In Cuba, it's beginning to look a bit like Christmas.

Cuba has mounted pictures of US soldiers torturing Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison onto billboards outside the US mission in Havana in retaliation for American Christmas illuminations highlighting Cuban dissidents.

The "decorations" war on Malecon Avenue along Havana's sea front escalated Friday as Cuba ended war games intended to dissuade any US invasion.

## 75 dissidents

The Cuban authorities were infuriated when the US special interests section put up Christmas lights that had a neon "75" as the centerpiece surrounded by traditional Christmas trees.

The number was a pointed reference to 75 Cuban dissidents detained by the communist authorities last year in a crackdown on the opposition.

The chief US representative in Havana, James Cason, was summoned to the Cuban foreign ministry on Monday, but he refused to take down the decorations.

Cuba responded by putting up a huge billboard in front of the US mission showing the Abu Ghraib abuse images that caused a global scandal earlier this year. The accompanying slogan proclaims: "Fascists Made In USA."

Near the public entrance to the building, another image was put up showing an American Marine pointing his rifle at the head of a child under the words: "Merry Christmas."

The Cuban authorities have also put up red flags with the Nazi crosses emblazoned on them.

## US refuses to back down

In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell chided Cuba for the display. "I don't think that is very wise on their part," Powell said in the latest volley in the holiday season row.

He refused to back down on the US decorations, which he called a gesture of solidarity with political prisoners in Cuba.

"And the Cuban government's response is to put forward and show the world a swastika?" he said. "I don't think that is very wise on their part. We will continue to stick by our troops and our diplomats down there, and our Christmas display with the '75.'

## Fanatical

A diplomat at the US mission in Havana, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Cuban response was "fanatical and exaggerated."

"There cannot be a better contrast. On one side, the United States is wishing Cubans happy holidays ... and an effort to launch a debate on human rights. On the other, there is an assortment of aggressive billboards," the diplomat said.

Cuba has not had normal diplomatic relations with the United States since 1961, but each has an interests section in the other's capital for consular business. Their rivalry has regularly spilled over into such undiplomatic antics.

## Preparing for invasion

The communist island this week staged wargames involving hundreds of thousands of regular troops, reservists, students and civilians to prepare for what the authorities have called US plans for an invasion.

Defense Minister Raul Castro, the president's younger brother, said the exercises were intended to make sure the United States "does not commit the errors it made in Vietnam and that it is now committing in Iraq." *AFP*


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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

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# UP Lantern Parade: One like no other

By Tina G. Santos

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines may be the acknowledged bastion of student activism, but once a year, it takes time out to celebrate what it considers its grandest tradition—the Lantern Parade, given a touch unique to the state university.

The event, which can be traced back to the practice of Filipinos carrying lanterns of various shapes and sizes to light the way to the dawn Mass or *misa de gallo*, is one of the surviving non-academic social activity of the university.

In 1922, UP students celebrated the Lantern Parade. Twelve years later, UP President Jorge Bocobo formally established the practice as what it is now—the display of colorful floats, lanterns and costumed performances—and has since become a fitting way to end classes for Christmas.

## Annual theme

At every Lantern Parade, a particular theme is chosen. Participants vie for the titles of the "rowdiest group," "most colorful costume" and "most symbolic float," among others. New titles to compete for, such as "most resourceful" and "over-all champion," emerged through the years.

With the theme "Peryang Pilipino," participants of this year's parade still managed to come up with delightful and carnival-like presentations, even as they were told to keep their lantern entries simple in the light of financial constraints and environmental concerns.

KAPRE in the city: Fine Arts students parade an effigy of the ogre-like creature to call attention to the devastation of nature. RAFFY LERMA

At exactly 4 p.m. on Thursday, while the sun was still mercilessly beating down everyone's back, a marching band heralded the start of the parade as thousands of spectators—some of whom came from nearby provinces like Pampanga and Laguna—watched in awe and delight as they gathered at the UP grounds in Diliman.

The winners were judged according to their audience impact, design and concept, technical workmanship and adherence to the theme "the spirit of a festive, colorful and carnival-like Christmas."

Among the most applauded exhibits were the College of Music's colorful carnival-themed floats and performers including a band, mermaid and acrobats; and the College of Mass Communications' giant television screen with some students performing a la Sandara Park in her shampoo commercial and as "Krystala," actress Judy Ann Santos' popular character in a "fantaserye."

As expected, they were adjudged as the over-all grand and the most creative lantern winners, respectively.

## Most resourceful

The Institute of Islamic Studies won as the most resourceful group with their presentation of a huge lamp carousel made of recycled materials such as bottles and used diskettes. The group said their entry represents rich Filipino culture and creativity.

The College of Human Kinetics showcased a giant badminton shuttlecock lantern, but it was their all-out dance performance that earned them the "most spirited participation" award.

Apart from these major recognitions, three other colleges won as the "judges' choice." These were the Asian Institute of Tourism (various mode of transportation), College of Engineering (carousel), and Institute of Library and Information Science (cartoon characters).

But it was hard to keep politics out of even something like the Lantern Parade. The UP All Worker's Union made a "Massacre Machine" and a giant Dalmatian bearing President Macapagal-Arroyo's effigies as the the group chanted out loud against her.

## Hall of Fame

However, the most awaited floats came from the College of Fine Arts, the only Lantern Parade Hall of Famer in the Over-All Best Lantern Category.

The College of Fine Arts' participation became a consistent spectacle at the parades. Its entries, unmatched in creativity and imagination, monopolized the grand prizes from the parade inception until 1989, when the college was installed in the parade Hall of Fame.

But in 2001, the college's Hall of Fame status was lifted, allowing it to compete once more. It had been "merely" the parade's main attraction for too long. Fine Arts took home almost all the trophies, all the cash prizes and certainly all the awe and respect of the audience. Again, immediately, the Hall of Fame status was conferred the following year.

It has been the Fine Arts' practice to "go against the university theme." True enough, this year, Fine Arts students took on Philippine mythical creatures as their motif, with their "monster" roster parading the familiar "sirena," "manananggal," "tikbalang" and "nuno sa punso," among others.

## Bizarre, unfamiliar

They also presented a host of unfamiliar ones, among them the "bangungot" ( a large woman that pounds on a sleeping person's chest till he or she can't breathe), the "bungisngis" ( a laughing one-eyed giant with tusks who picked up and threw carabaos at whim), and the "bakunawa" (a dragon-like creature who occasionally gobbled up the sun, causing an eclipse).

And while Fine Arts students no longer expect to win any trophy or cash prize during the Lantern Parade, it has not lessened their enthusiasm to improve their work as they were given the role to be the parade's main attraction each year, Professor Virginia Dandan, the college's dean, said.

However, the college decided to come up with their own contest.

"We compete among ourselves. (The prize money) was sort of an incentive to encourage the students to come up with original art pieces and somehow get back the money they spent in making the lanterns," Dandan said, adding that they take it as their social responsibility to outdo themselves each year so as not to disappoint the spectators.

Among the roster of monsters, the painting major students' "kapre" emerged as the winner. Their entry was made of bamboo and Japanese paper and a smoke machine was used to make it appear that that giant mythical creature was puffing a tobacco.

## Kapre for nature

And as if the "kapre," who was seated on a big piece of log, were not enough, the class also carried a huge banner beside their lantern, which clearly conveyed their message: "Stop illegal logging!" The prize money—the princely sum of P2,000—would be donated to Infanta (Quezon) flood victims.

"I hope that in our own way, we're able to impart an important message to other people—respect for Mother nature and respect for trees," said Paolo Luis Francisco, 24, one of the first year painting students who took part in making the art piece.

"In folktales, the 'kapre' was among the forest guardians, he was the one guarding the trees, isn't it?" added Francisco's classmate, Carl Florendo, 18.

But the elder members of the audience, most of whom were graduates of the university, couldn't help but reminisce and compare the Lantern Parade with the way they had celebrated it during their UP days.

## Lantern queen

The early celebrations not only boasted of well-executed lanterns and floats but beautiful muses as well. The highlight of each year's Lantern Parade was the proclamation of the Lantern Queen. Celebrities like Boots Anson Roa and Queen of the Pacific and activist Nelia Sancho were once UP's Lantern Queens.

There, however, was time when UP had to forgo the day of lanterns. The first was in 1941, when UP had to close because of the Second World War. In 1946, the parade re-opened.

The second time the Lantern Parade was canceled was in 1957. This time, the students staged their first boycott because of the Board of Regent's indecision to select a permanent UP president. The Executive Committee was left with no other choice but to declare a Christmas recess on the eve of the parade.

The last Lantern Parade before Martial Law was in 1969. Students gave the parade an activist motif. Fittingly enough, Nelia Sancho was crowned Lantern Queen.

The Lantern Parade went on hiatus until 1977. Its comeback was made memorable with the participants carrying torches while parading around the 2.5-km Academic Oval, UP's main thoroughfare that snakes around all the major buildings.

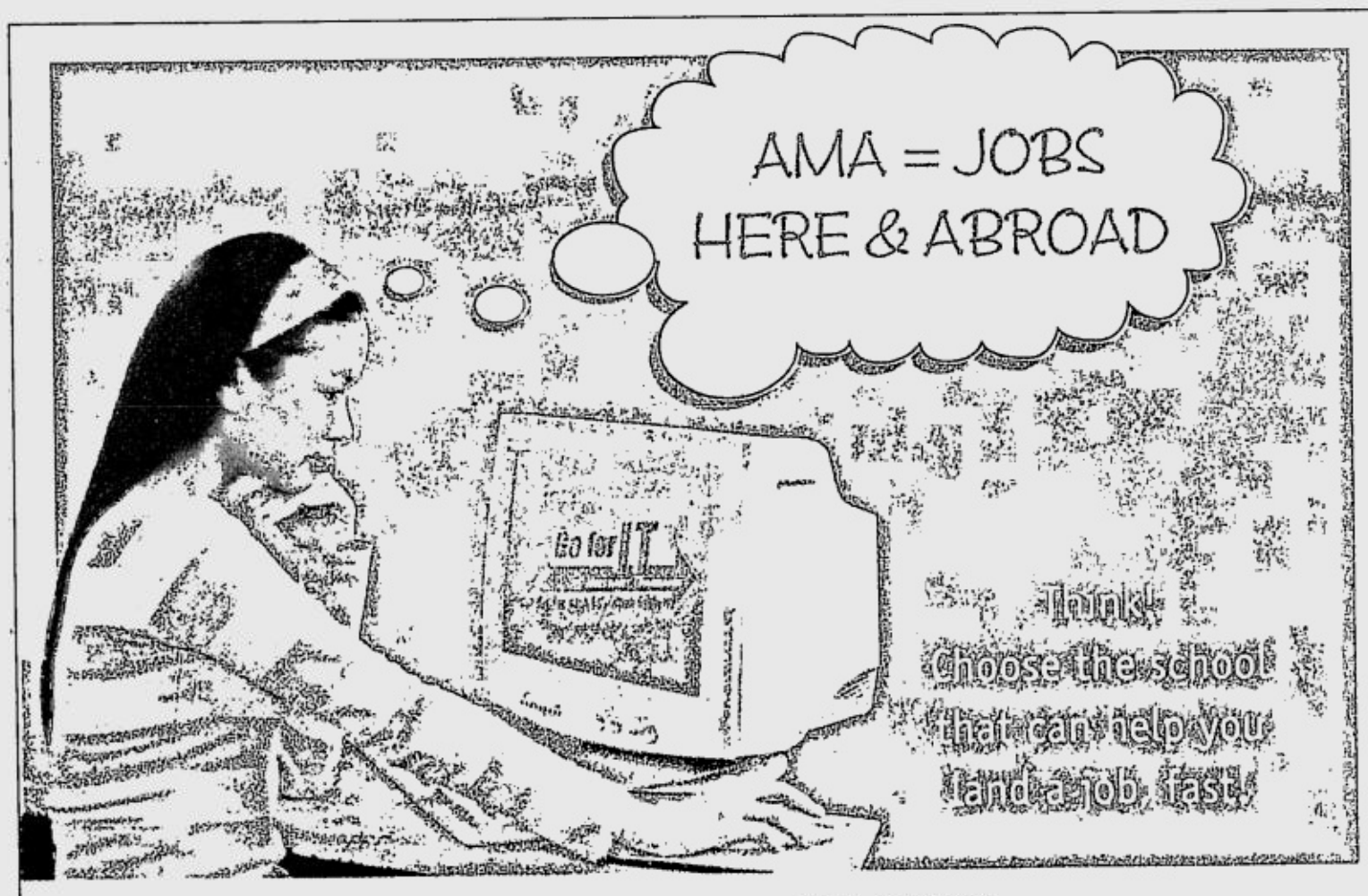
## Here comes the 'King'

The parade's revival saw some changes in its format. The search for a Lantern Queen was discontinued as some sectors protested the "beauty contest" aspect of the event. In 2002, however, the Queen selection was revived, but with a twist—a Lantern King was also chosen. The King and Queen were chosen from among the participants and the crowd, all in the spirit of fun.

Most UP students and graduates take pride in saying that the Lantern Parade has indeed "survived" the test of time, unlike the rest of the UP traditions, including the Cadena de Amor Festival, Hayride and Arbor Day, which have all died out.

The rise of student activism in the late 1960s saw the end to other UP traditions like the Cadena de Amor Festival, an event where the senior coeds bequeathed to the juniors the beautiful traditions of UP life they would soon be leaving through the symbolic passing of cadena de amor gar-

UP LANTERN/ A23

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# Dolphy grandson killed in QC driveby shooting

By Tina G. Santos

IT WAS yet another tragedy for Philippine comedy king Dolphy.

While still grieving for the loss of longtime friend Fernando Poe Jr., Dolphy, Rodolfo Quizon offscreen, lost another loved one.

His 15-year-old grandson by son Edgar was shot dead by still unidentified suspects in Quezon City early yesterday morning, police said.

Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., Central Police District Office (CPDO) director, identified the victim as Jelom Carlo Quizon.

Radovan said two of Quizon's companions were also hurt in the incident that happened near the corner of Malindang Street and A. Bonifacio Drive in Barangay La Loma at about 5:20 a.m.

The police chief identified Quizon's companions as Angelo Abangan, 19, and Gener Balingit, 17, also residents of Quezon City. Abangan was hit in the leg, while Balingit sustained gunshot wounds in the body.

Initial investigation showed that Quizon and his companions were walking along Bonifacio Drive when a group of teenagers, on board a tricycle and armed with guns, drove past them and riddled them with bullets.

The suspects immediately fled after the attack, police said.

The victims were reportedly on their way to attend Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church when the incident happened.

Radovan said Quizon was taken to the Chinese Medical Center in Manila, but was declared dead by doctors about an hour later due to a bullet wound in the abdomen.

Radovan said they would conduct a deeper investigation into the shooting to determine the motive for the killing.

In a television interview, an uncle of one of the victims told reporters that the suspects were from a group of young men whom they knew.

However, the relative said the victims did not know of any reason for the attack.

As of presstime, Dolphy had not been told of his grandson's death, according to his publicist, Nene Riego.

Riego said she was finding it hard to tell Dolphy of the incident because the comedian was still grieving the death of Poe, one of his show biz best friends who died last Monday morning.

Quizon is the brother of sexy actress Michelle Quizon, who appeared in the 2002 movie "Kapalit," which starred Jay Manalo, Alma Moreno and Victor Neri.

He is also the cousin of actor-commercial model Boy 2 Quizon.

Quizon's father is among the eldest of Dolphy's children.

# 3 solicit Xmas gifts, arrested in Caloocan

By Tina G. Santos

THREE men clad in metro aide uniforms were arrested in Caloocan City after they were caught soliciting gifts from residents.

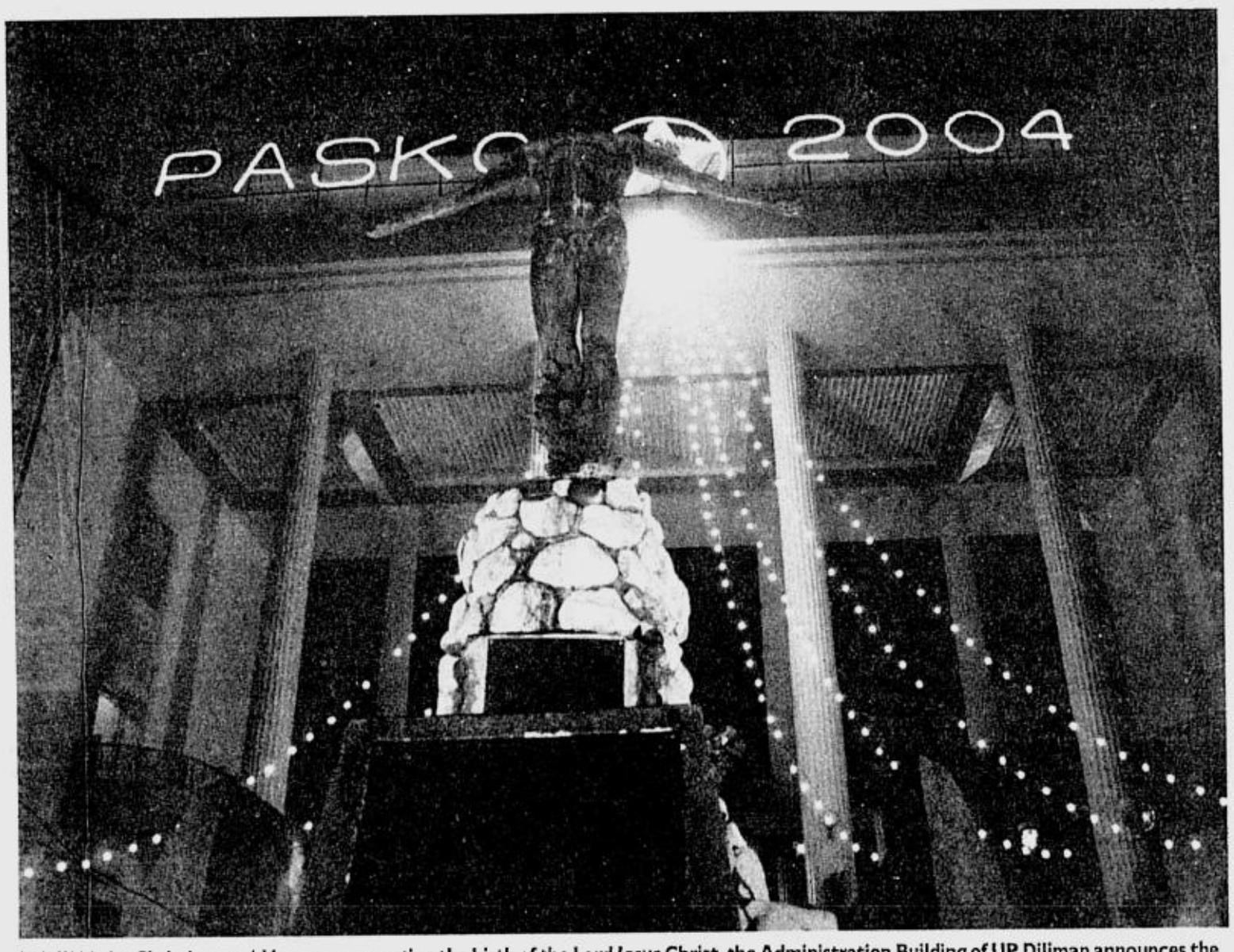
Al Sta. Maria, head of the city's Environment and Sanitation Services, identified those apprehended as Alexander dela Cruz, 39; Lito Navarte, 23; and Florentino Lopez, 42; all residents of Julian Felipe Street, Sangandaan, Caloocan. They were also wearing Santa Claus hats when nabbed.

Sta. Maria said he received complaints that the three men were going around with a letter soliciting gifts from the residents, prompting him to lead other city officials in arresting the suspects at the corner of P. Jacinto and B. Serrano Streets at about 8 a.m.

The city government earlier issued an order prohibiting all City Hall employees from soliciting gifts in any form from the public.

"Residents who were aware of the local government's order against soliciting were the ones who called up the City Hall hotlines and reported the trio's activities," Sta. Maria said.

He added they were able to confirm that the suspects were fake metro aides and had been slapped with usurpation of authority and violation of a City Hall directive.




JOINING the Christian world in commemorating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Administration Building of UP Diliman announces the coming of the season. REM ZAMORA

# UP Lantern ...

From page A22

lands, started in 1934.

Also called "the festival of girls and flowers," the last Cadena de Amor Festival, which rites took inspiration from the Daisy Chain of Vassar College, was held in 1968 as students started questioning university traditions and the evolution of the ceremony into a beauty contest.

The UP Diliman Hayride, on the other hand, began in the early 1950s where everyone could hitch a ride from open vehicles cushioned with hay. Buses were provided by the Student Union organization, the sponsor of the event, for those without vehicles.

Song sheets were given to all revelers containing popular tunes of the time, and they sang to their hearts content while going around the campus. Student organizations would compete by out clapping, out howling, and even out talking one another.

This was the time when the usual somber evening on campus would turn into a night of revelry, where everybody donned the most casual of attires and were licensed to be in touch with their wild side.

A favorite Hayride activity was the torch marathon. Contestants would run around the campus carrying lighted torches, and vie for the honor of lighting first the bonfire at the Union open court.

The death of a student during the celebration of Hayride in 1969 put an end to this event.

Dating back to 1918, Arbor Day was a time when students and faculty cleaned up the whole campus and planted trees by the hundreds. The dignity of labor as exemplified by community cleaning became the dominant theme of the celebrations.

Last Thursday's Lantern Parade ended with a fireworks display, literally capping the event with a bang.

And the prizes each winner got were only icing on the cake. Oldtimers say the true reward was the spirit of camaraderie, good humor and fun—not to mention that eternal striving for excellence—engendered by a parade much loved and eagerly awaited by the UP community to this day.

# CM Recto to undergo facelift

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THERE is no slowing down for the Manila City government's beautification projects.

Early next year, City Hall will again be busy attending to another redevelopment project, this time along busy Claro M. Recto Avenue, which spans the city's Sampaloc and Sta. Cruz districts.

"Because the LRT (Light Rail Transit) 2, is already functional and Recto is the underbelly of the railway. We do not want a repeat of the effects of the LRT 1 on Avenida (Rizal Avenue)," said Mayor Lito Atienza, explaining the new undertaking.

During the pedestrianization of Rizal Avenue in December 2003, Atienza explained that the construction of the LRT over Taft Avenue from Baclaran through Rizal Avenue to Monumento in Caloocan contributed to the decay of the national road.

# Fire takes away another daughter

By Leila B. Salaverria

ONE ANOTHER was all the four-member Amat family had. But then a fire managed to take away one of their two children.

Tragedy struck when fire engulfed the makeshift home that they had built inside a broken down jeepney in Tondo, Manila.

While the Amat couple was away and working, their youngest child, year-old Grachel Ann Amat, perished in the fire.

The fire was believed to have been started when Grachel Ann's 3-year-old brother played with matches, said arson investigator SFO1 Emmanuel Gaspar.

Reportedly due to highly combustible materials inside the jeepney, the fire quickly spread and soon had burned through the rundown jeepney.

The brother, whose name was unavailable at press time, was able to get out of the burning jeepney.

Grachel Ann was reportedly asleep when the fire started at 11 a.m.

Neighbors who saw the jeepney burn scrambled to put out the fire but the spread of the flames proved too fast for them.

People later found Grachel Ann inside and even rushed her to the Mary Johnston Hospital, where she was later declared dead.

The girl suffered third degree burns on almost 100 percent of her body.

According to Gaspar, Grachel Ann's parents, Maricel and Jerry, were working when the incident took place. Maricel had left earlier to work, leaving Jerry with the children.

Gaspar said Jerry later left the two children alone to look for odd jobs in the neighborhood and get a few pesos for their food, especially since it was nearing lunch time.

It devastated both parents when they arrived home seeing only the charred remains of what used to be their home.

Gaspar said the couple rarely left the children alone, and that Jerry was especially heartbroken at the incident.

"*Nagwawala siya sa ospital sa pagsisisi. Hindi naman kasi talaga nila iniiwan yung mga bata, tapos ganito pa ang nangyari* (He was hysterical in the hospital out of regret. The couple hardly left the children alone, and this had to happen)," the investigator said, referring to Jerry.

Gaspar said the Amat couple was so grief-stricken that they could not even speak to him. He had to gather information about what happened from other people at the hospital who knew about the incident.

According to the arson investigator, the jeepney where the Amat family had been staying belonged to a neighbor who is in the United States.

Since the jeepney could not be used because its battery was broken, the Amat family asked their neighbor to let them stay there in the meantime because they had no place to stay.

The loss of the Amat family paralleled the fate that befell that of Speaker Jose de Venecia and his wife Gina.

The De Venecia couple lost their youngest daughter, Kristina Casimira, to a fire that hit their mansion in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, Thursday.

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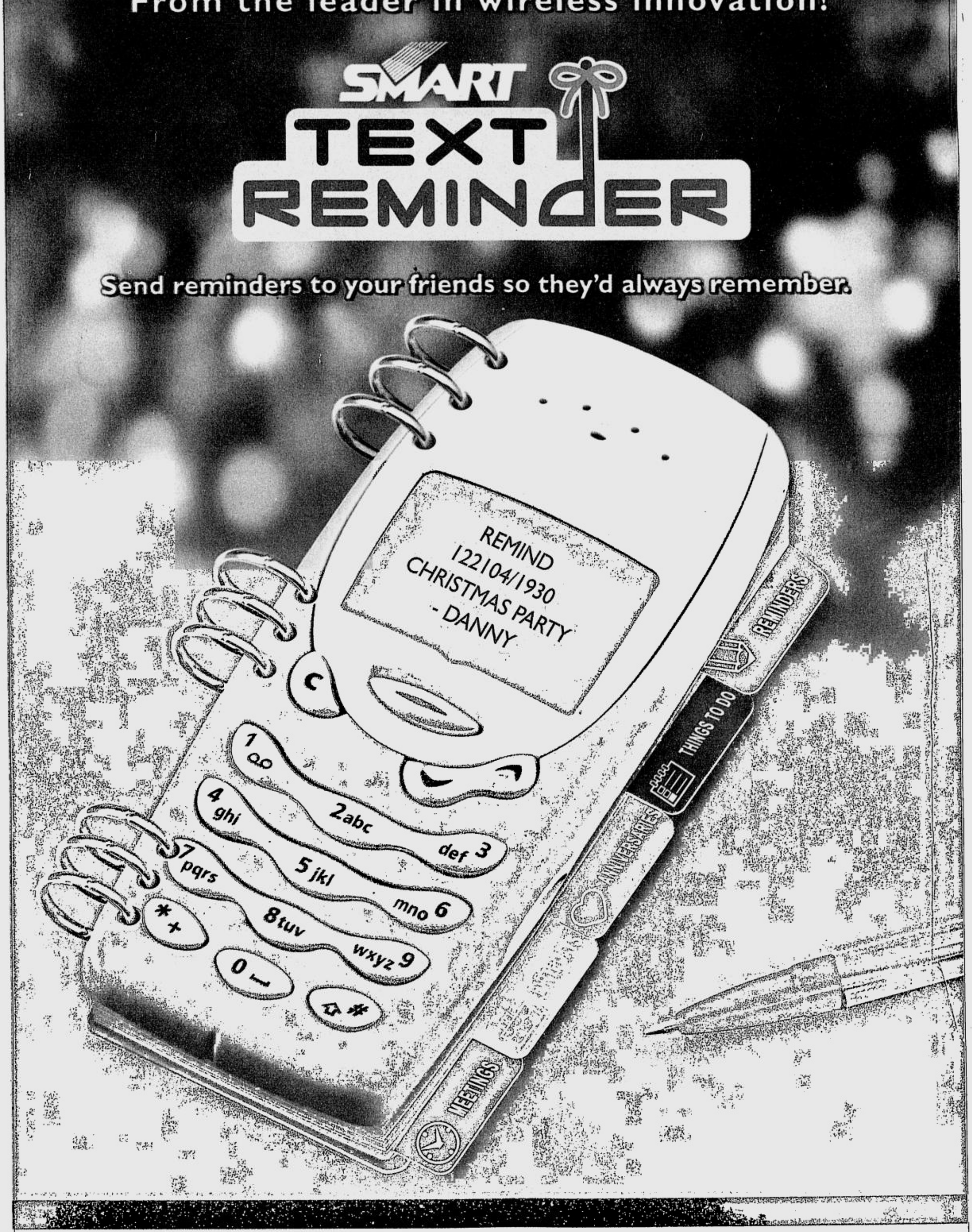


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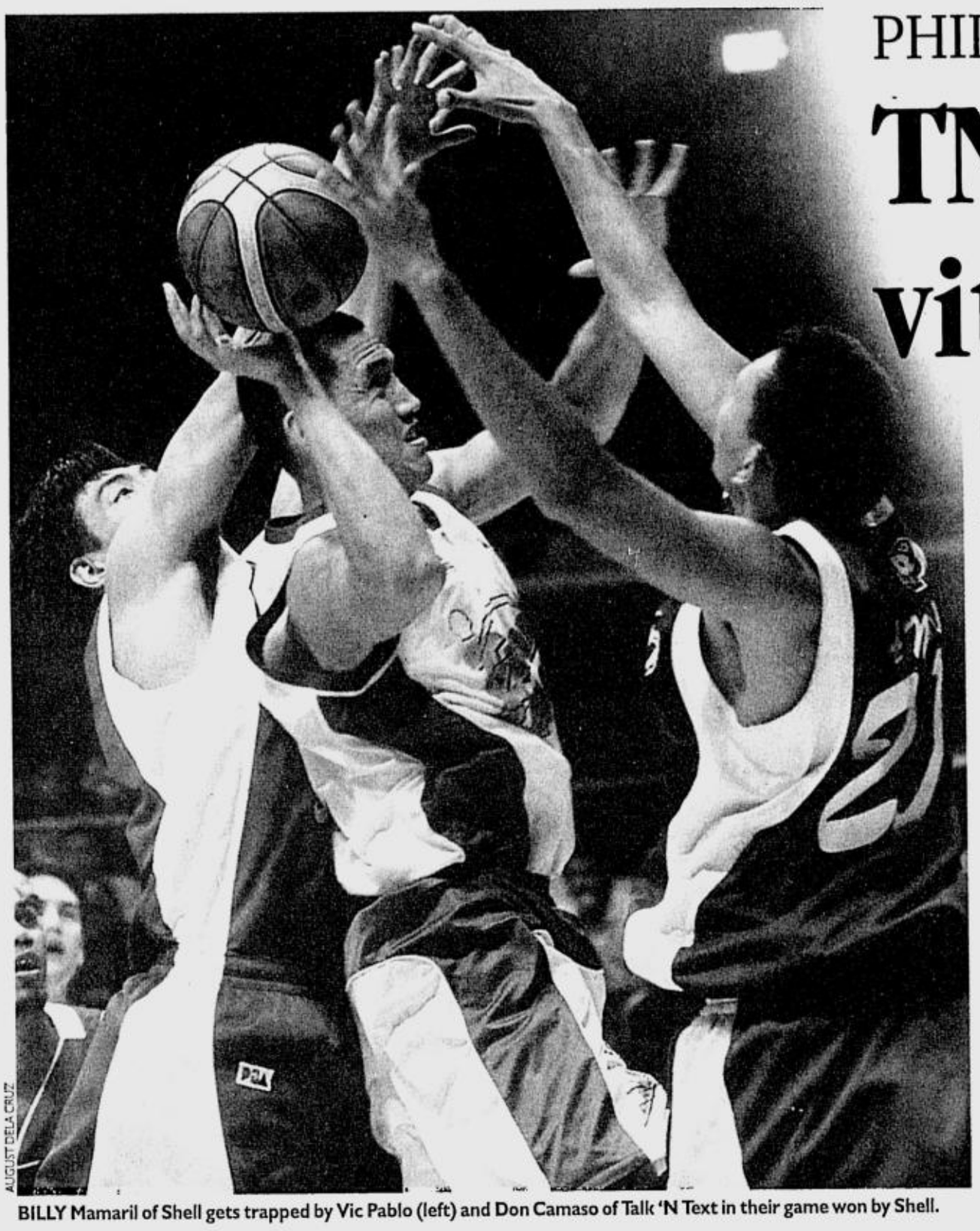
*Editor* Teddyvic S. Melendres



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

BILLY Mamaril of Shell gets trapped by Vic Pablo (left) and Don Camaso of Talk 'N Text in their game won by Shell.

PHILIPPINE CUP

# TNT, Shell seek vital wins today

TALK 'N Text needs to sweep its remaining assignments if it wants a trouble-free entry into the semifinals.

That tall order begins today for the Phone Pals when they tackle the Sta. Lucia Realtors in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Phone Pals have to beat the Realtors at 4 p.m. and hope that Shell succumbs to FedEx in the other game at 6:30 to boost their cause and stay on top.

But TNT still has to beat Barangay Ginebra in its final elimination-round game to avoid a playoff for the No. 2 spot.

The top two teams after the elimination round are guaranteed outright passage to the best-of-five semifinals with the rest going through the rigorous wild-card phase and quarterfinal rounds.

The Phone Pals and the Gin Kings are tied for the lead at 11-5 while the Turbochargers are breathing down their necks at 11-6.

With a lone game left, the Turbochargers have no recourse but to repeat over the Express to secure a playoff for the No. 2 semifinal slot.

And for that to happen, the Phone Pals and the Gin Kings will have to lose one of their remaining games.

"But before we could entertain any thought of getting into a playoff, we should first beat FedEx," said Shell coach Leo Austria, whose Turbochargers squeaked past the Express, 101-99, in their initial meeting.

As for the Express, coach Joe Lipa will be satisfied enough to win and avoid the cursed ninth and 10th spots where teams will have to upset their wild-card foes (Nos. 3 and 4) twice before advancing to the quarterfinals.

It will be the same objective for the Realtors, who are hoping to land anywhere from fifth to eighth going into the next round.

The fifth-ranked squad will be pitted against No. 8 and No. 6 opposite No. 7, with both pairings set for a best-of-three series in the wild-card round.

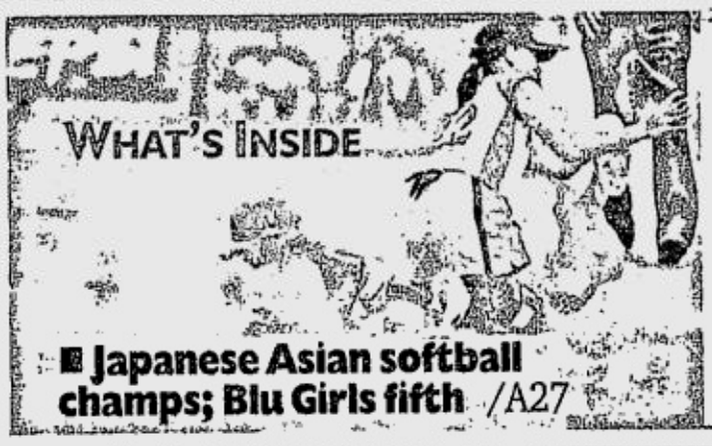
The four survivors in the wild card advance to the best-of-three quarterfinal pairings with the two winners arranging a best-of-five duel in the semifinals with the top two teams.

Although coming off a setback against the Express, coach Alfrancis Chua and the Realtors enjoy a psychological advantage over Talk 'N Text, having earlier yanked the rug from under the Phone Pals, 104-102, in Puerto Princesa City. *June Navarro*

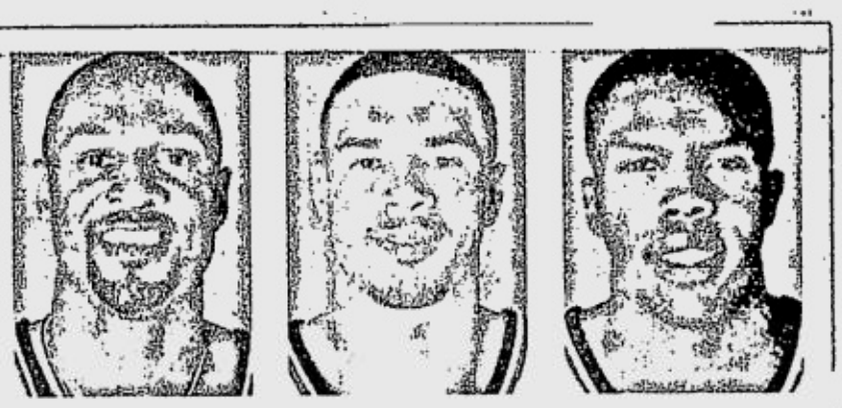
| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Talk 'N Text | 11 | 5 |
| Barangay Ginebra | 11 | 5 |
| Shell | 11 | 6 |
| San Miguel Beer | 8 | 8 |
| Purefoods | 8 | 9 |
| Alaska | 8 | 9 |
| Coca-Cola | 7 | 10 |
| FedEx | 6 | 9 |
| Red Bull | 6 | 10 |
| Sta. Lucia Realty | 5 | 10 |

**GAMES TODAY**
*(Makati Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Talk 'N Text
6:30 p.m.—Shell vs FedEx

■ Mark loses title via tiebreak /A26




■ Japanese Asian softball champs; Blu Girls fifth /A27



■ Carter traded to New Jersey /A31

■ Real Spicy leads Esguerra stable Juvenile entries /A30

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

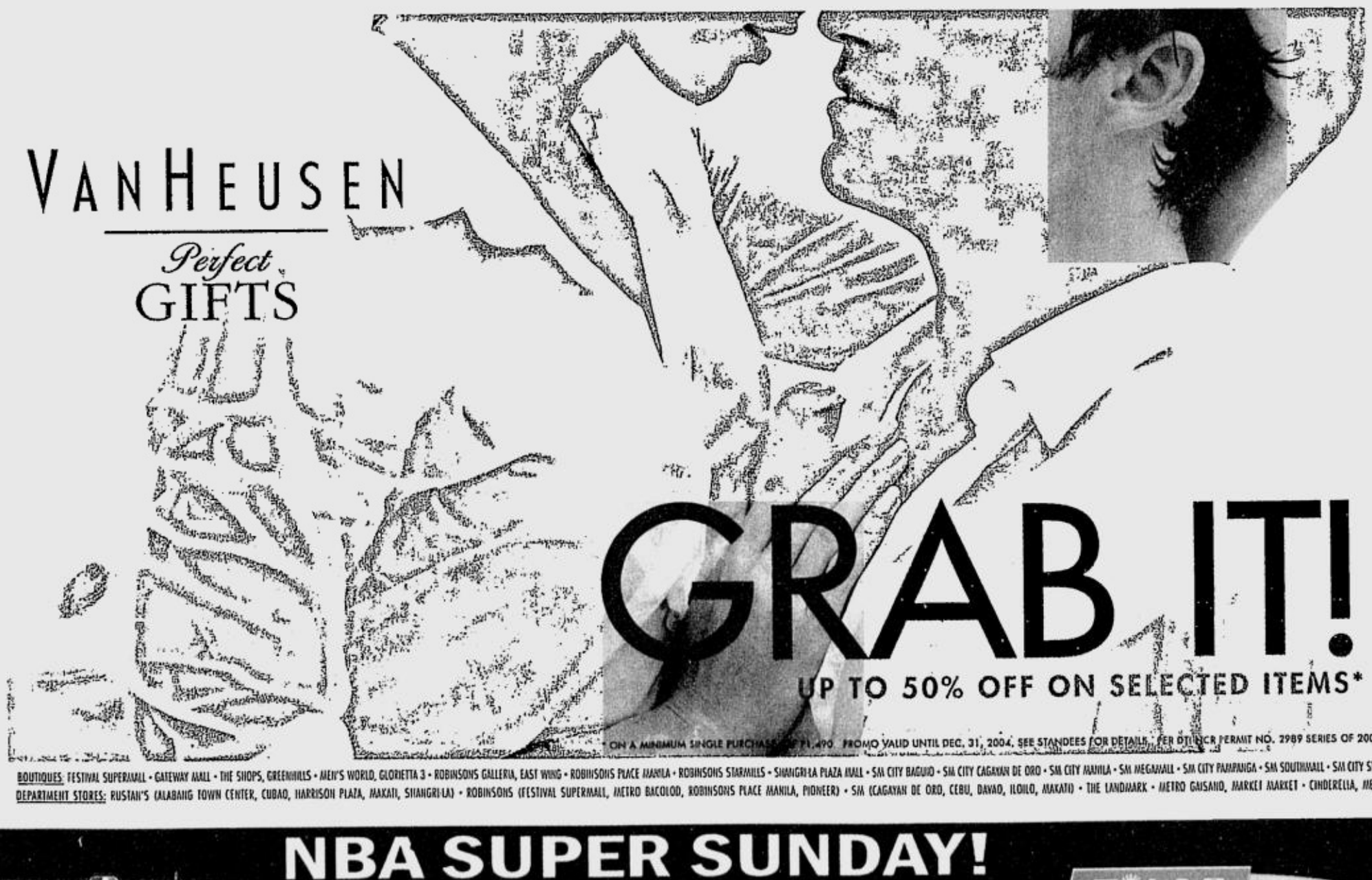
BASKETBALL: NBA—Nuggets vs Magic; 8 a.m. (r-11:30 p.m.); Warriors vs Spurs; 12 noon (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Denver meets Orlando while Golden State clashes with San Antonio.

US NCAA-Florida State vs Minnesota; 3 p.m. (r); Michigan State vs Duke; 5 p.m. (r); Maryland vs Wisconsin; 7 p.m. (r); ESPN—Rewind and catch the replay of this ACC/ Big Ten Challenge triple-header.

TENNIS: Wimbledon 2004-Sharapova vs Davenport; 5:30 p.m. and midnight (r); STAR Sports—Take another look at the classic semifinal duel between eventual champion Maria Sharapova and Lindsay Davenport.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

VAN HEUSEN
*Perfect* GIFTS



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DEPARTMENT STORES: RUSTAN'S (ALABANG TOWN CENTER, CUBAO, HARRISON PLAZA, MAKATI, SHANGRI-LA) • ROBINSONS (FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, METRO BACOLOD, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, PIONEER) • SM (CAGAYAN DE ORO, CEBU, DAVAO, ILOILO, MAKATI) • THE LANDMARK • METRO GAISANO, MARKET MARKET • CINDERELLA, MEGAMALL

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NBA RPN
PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS vs DETROIT PISTONS
10:00 AM
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DENVER NUGGETS
ORLANDO MAGIC
8:00 AM LIVE
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
SAN ANTONIO SPURS
12:00 nn (via satellite)
Learn more about your favorite players and NBA on NBA JAM! 12:30 PM on RPN | Replay 8pm on SOLAR SPORTS

## SINGAPORE MASTERS

# Mark loses title via tiebreak

FILIPINO Grandmaster-candidate Mark Paragua halved the point with Chinese GM Zhang Pengxiang after 34 moves of a Sicilian Defense in the ninth and final round to finish as runner-up in the Singapore Masters International Open Chess Championships Friday night at the Tao Nan School, Marine Crescent District in Singapore.

The 20-year-old Paragua finished with 7.0 points in a tie with Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto, who stunned top seed GM Xu Jun of China in 53 moves of a Sicilian Skirmish.

Megaranto emerged with superior tiebreak points despite losing to Paragua in the third round.

Paragua took solace for nailing another GM result, his fourth in the last four months and fifth overall.

GM Wu Wenjin of China finished solo third with 6.5 points.

Fide Master Julio Catalino Sadorra, the other Filipino in the 48-man field, scalped Gurpeet Pal Sing of India after 34 moves of an Old Indian Defense to raise his total of 5.5 points and share eighth to 11th places.

In the Challengers Open, Rosulo Cabusora of Isabela defeated Boy T of Indonesia to finish fourth with 6.5 points.

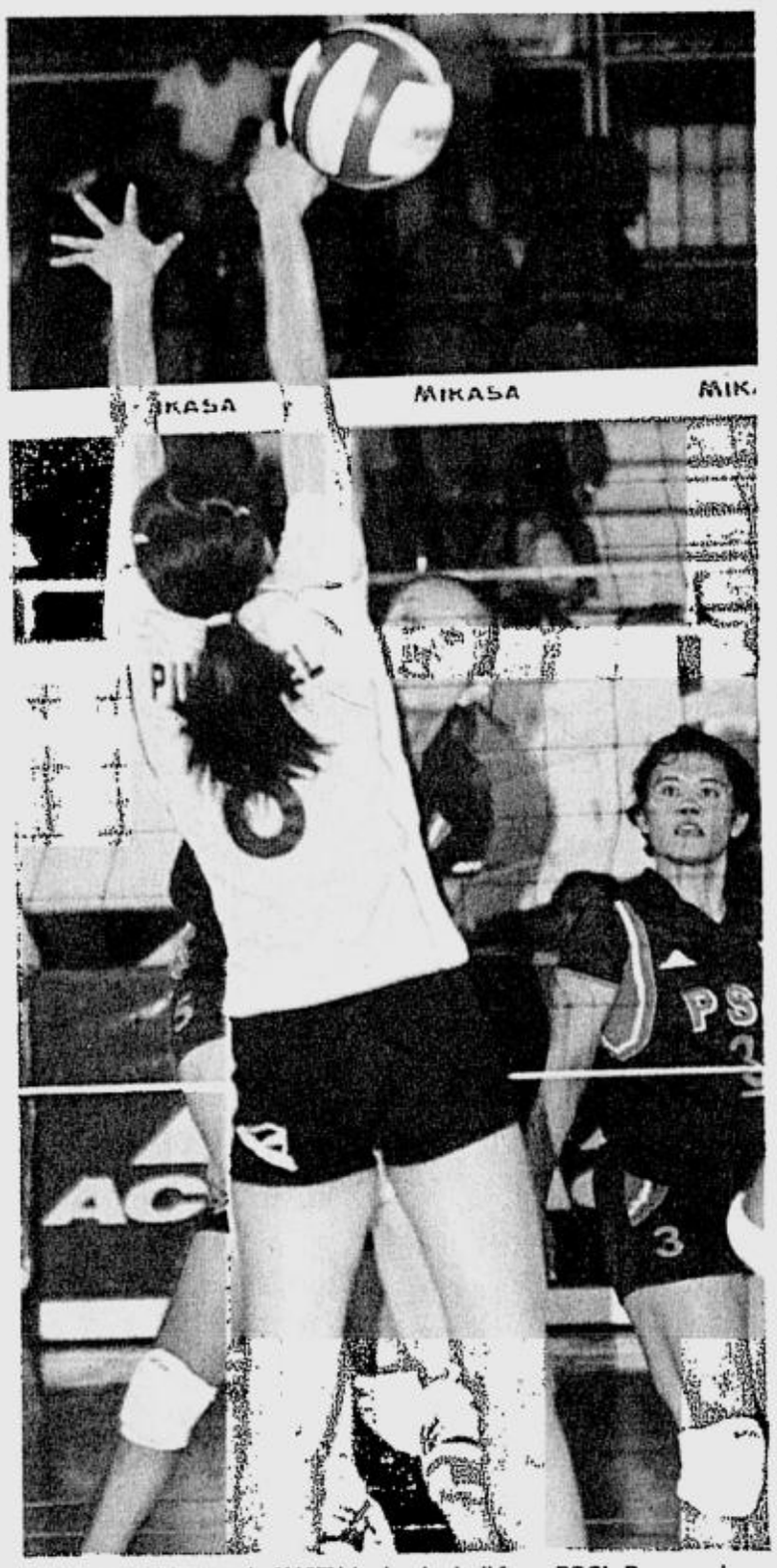
Philippine five-time executive grand champion Dr. Jenny Mayor finished with 5.5 points and shared eighth to 13th places with National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) director Wilfredo Abalos.

India dominated the Asian Youth Championships with eight individual and seven team gold medals.

The Philippine age-group participants were Marco Polo Rosete (5.5 points), Jesus Alfonso Datu (4.5), Randolf Dalauta (4.5), Leo Daylo Jr. (4.5) and Miggo Vittorio Mejico (2.5) in the boys' 14-under; Franz Robert Grafil (5.5), Jose Valera Jarvis (3.0) and Aleksandrei Raphael Juloya (2.5) in the boys' 12-under and Jimri de la Cruz (2.5) in the boys' 10-under; Maria Virginia Gonzales (4.0) and Mary Meolla Villanueva (3.5) in the girls' 14-under; Jedara Docena (6.0) in the girls' 12-under, and Jeselle Anne Cara (2.0) in the girls' 10-under.

*NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

PARAGUA: Fifth GM result PDI PHOTO




ROXANNE Pimentel of UST blocks the ball from PSC's Rosemarie Parochina during their recent duel. RUDY ESPERAS

# Tigresses stake clean record vs Lady Pirates in V-League

UNBEATEN defending champion University of Santo Tomas and resurgent Lyceum clash today in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Although the UST Tigresses appear awesome with their four-game streak, including an emphatic straight-set victory over the Lady Tams last Thursday, the Lady Pirates have regained their bearing and form after dropping their first two games by posting back-to-back victories.

That makes the 1 p.m. encounter doubly interesting with the Muralla-based spikers expected to come out strong and spring a surprise against the most fancied team in the fold.

UST coach August Sta. Maria knows fully well the challenge ahead.

"*Malakas din ang* team *na ito, magaling din dumepensa* (This team is also strong, it is good defensively)," said Sta. Maria, who drew a combined 31 hits from Kate Co Yu Kang, Roxanne Pimentel and Mary Jean Balse in their victory over FEU that lasted a little more than an hour.

The power-hitting troika is again expected to lead UST in its quest for a fifth straight victory heading into the holiday break of this event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Dunkin Donuts, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, Smart and PLDT with Mikasa and Accel as official volleyball and outfitter, respectively.

In the other game, FEU hopes to improve its 1-4 (win-loss) slate as it plays hard-luck San Sebastian College in the 3 p.m. encounter. The Lady Stags are winless in four games.

The UST-Lyceum game will be telecast on IBC 13 starting at 3 p.m. while the FEU-SSC encounter will be aired tomorrow, also at 3 p.m.

# Morales rules out Pacquiao rumble, eyes new division

By Salven L. Lagumbay
*Contributor*

ERIK Morales, another great Mexican fighter, has ruled out a future rumble with Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao.

While admitting he would have loved a clash with Pacquiao, recent developments have ruined the possibility of Morales colliding with the Ring Magazine featherweight champion next year.

"I'd like to take on Manny Pacquiao, but I think he's already set for Juan Manuel Marquez," said Morales during a well-attended get-together with the media in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he and his girlfriend are currently vacationing.

Pacquiao will be going for the WBA-IBF title of Marquez again on Feb. 26, 2005 in a rematch of their first encounter last May that ended in a draw.

If Pacquiao wins, Morales said the Filipino would likely go for a second meeting with Marco Antonio Barrera, who had beaten him in their epic third fight recently.

Morales said he does not have the luxury of time waiting for a bout with Pacquiao because he wants to move up to the next higher division.

"Most likely I'll fight next between March and April and I think I'd do the last fight at 130 pounds before going up to 135," said Morales.

"Next September, though, I'll challenge for the 135-lb title as I think my friend Jose Luis Castillo (current WBC lightweight champ) will also go up in weight."

Morales came to Argentina upon the invitation of cable channel Space which has asked him to annotate his own fights in a special program that Space will air on Saturday on the South Cone of South America.

"I'm here on vacation, though it's always good to also think of doing some business," Morales told Fightnews.

"We're planning to bring some Mexican fighters that I represent to fight in Argentina next year," he added.

When asked on his take about Oscar De La Hoya as a promoter, Morales told Fightnews: "I think De La Hoya's ego is bigger than the boxers he manages. That's why you can see his name all around the place when he puts a fight on. Yet, the only big fight his company won was Barrera against me. Without a doubt, the best promotional company is Top Rank."

"From now on I'll fight for any title that I can afford to. No more 100-percent loyalty to the WBC, yet I acknowledge their titles, along with WBA's, are the most prestigious ones," Morales said.

"Unfortunately, there still is racism in the US when it comes to boxing. That's why Mexican fighters have to do 'something else,' 'something special' in order to gain the TV companies' recognition," he added.

# PMI woodpushers rule Cusa tourney

PHILIPPINE Maritime Institute ruled the 10th Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) chess tournament at the Function Room of World Citi Colleges recently.

The Admirals finished with 39.0 points to share top spot with Technological Institute of the Philippines and take home the title after the tiebreak.

The team handled by International Master Ildefonso Datu is composed of Arnel Dableo, younger brother of reigning Asian 3.2a Zonal champ International Master Ronald Dableo, Anatoly Neri, Ricardo Salvador, Jilly Maximo and Russell Bautista.

Far third was Metro Manila College with 29.5 points, the same output of fourth placer St. Jude College and fifth placer Manuel L. Quezon University.

The victory in chess was the third in five events this year for the Sta. Cruz-based squad following their success in men's and women's basketball. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

# Negros Oriental to host national students

THE PROVINCE of Negros Oriental and the city of Dumaguete will host the 59th edition of the National Students Basketball Championship on Feb. 27 to March 5, 2005.

This was confirmed by Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz, who, together with key officials of the province, met with Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) secretary general Graham Lim on Thursday to iron out the details of the tournament.

This will be the first time that Negros Oriental will host the event also known as the National Inter-Secondary and Inter-Collegiate Basketball Championships.

Last year's national students caging was held in Lucena, Quezon, through Gov. Wilfredo Enverga.

Governor Arnaiz was accompanied by provincial board members Marcelo "Bobbot" Adanza and Roel Degamo, former board member Melimor Saycon and city councilor Banny Mamigo.

"Through this tournament, we hope to showcase our province as a prime tourist destination and a sports mecca as well," said Arnaiz, himself a sportsman who is into diving and other adventure sports.

Last year's champions Philippine Maritime Institute (seniors), San Beda College (juniors) and Lyceum (women's) will be back to defend their crowns against the top teams from the country's various regions.

As hosts, Negros Oriental is allowed to field a team in all three categories. Four college teams, meanwhile, will be coming from the National Capital Region, including reigning titlist PMI.

GRAHAM Lim (left) and Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz seal the province's hosting of the 59th National Students Basketball Championships. With them are provincial board members Melimor Saycon (2nd from left), Roel Degamo, Marcelo Adanza and Dumaguete City councilor Banny Mamigo (2nd from right).

# The historic, 4-year MOA

SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

MANY called after reading my piece here yesterday where I mentioned about a basketball milestone—the cementing of partnership between the Philippine Basketball Association and the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Amid detraction and misguided missiles aimed more at destroying than developing basketball in the land, here come PBA Commissioner Noli Eala and BAP secretary general Graham Lim signing a historic Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure a harmonious relationship from here on between the country's major basketball forces. In case somebody missed out on the MOA's first point that I wrote about here yesterday, I'm printing below all eight points of the MOA.

1. The selection, formation, training and maintenance of the Philippine National Men's (Seniors) Basketball Team that will compete in elite international events enumerated hereunder shall be solely and exclusively vested in the PBA.

2. The Philippine National Basketball Team that will be handled by the PBA in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall participate and compete in the following international events: a) Fiba-Asia men's Championship, b) R. William Jones Cup, and c) Fiba-Asia Champions Cup—provided that, in the case of the Fiba-Asia Champions Cup, the PBA may opt at its own discretion, to send a PBA-member professional team with imports; provided, finally, that the BAP and PBA may mutually agree to allow the PBA-backed team to participate and compete in other elite international tournaments as both parties may deem fit and appropriate.

3. This agreement shall commence upon signing hereof and end in December 31, 2008. This agreement may be renewed upon mutual agreement of the parties.

4. In carrying the task of selecting, forming, and training and maintaining the Philippine National Men's Team, the PBA shall be authorized and allowed to exclusively raise and source the necessary funding which shall include but not limited to Team Sponsorship and Merchandising, Sale of Television Coverage Rights and Receipts from Ticket Sales of Exhibition Games of the Men's Team.

5. The PBA shall have full and complete control in the disbursement of the funds raised for the Philippine National Men's Team, provided that the BAP shall receive a developmental subsidy, the amount of which shall be agreed upon at a later date.

6. Upon signing hereof, the PBA will start the formation of the national squad by appointing and naming the National Team's head coach. Said head coach shall have sole authority to choose his coaching staff. Said head coach shall also present his player selection process, training program, competition schedule and team budget and will present his "program of action" for the team to the PBA for approval of the necessary funding for said program. The BAP will submit a short list of three (3) coaches from which the National Team head coach will choose one (1) who will then serve as one of three (3) assistant coaches. The BAP and PBA will make a joint public announcement of the appointment of the head coach and his staff.

7. The Philippine National Team to the ABC Men's Basketball Championship, the Jones Cup and the ABC Champions Cup for the next four years (up to year 2008) will avail of the funds/arrangements, if any, provided for and undertaken by the organizers of the said competitions as far as the corresponding plane fare, billeting accommodations, and the like for the Philippine Men's National Team are concerned. In this connection, the BAP will take charge of the documentation of the official men's basketball delegation to the said international competitions, including travel papers and the required accreditation from the organizers.

8. All other matters not covered by this Agreement shall be discussed by the parties and mutually agreed upon taking into consideration the general interest of the team and Philippine basketball.

BAP president Tiny Literal and PBA chair Buddy Encarnado acted as witnesses to the signing of the MOA.

***

FASTBREAK. Belated birthday greetings to the living cycling legend, Jesus A. Garcia Jr., who turned a new leaf yesterday, a day after boxing idol Manny Pacquiao turned 26 on Dec. 17. Like Rob Dix, the chicks king of Northern Luzon, Pacquiao also distributed grocery items to the folk of GenSan, his city of birth. Rob, together with his wife Rose, did their own gift-giving yesterday to their neighbors and employees at Chix Unlimited in Barangay Casilagan. Cheers!

## SINGAPORE MASTERS

# Mark loses title via tiebreak

PARAGUA: Fifth GM result PDI PHOTO

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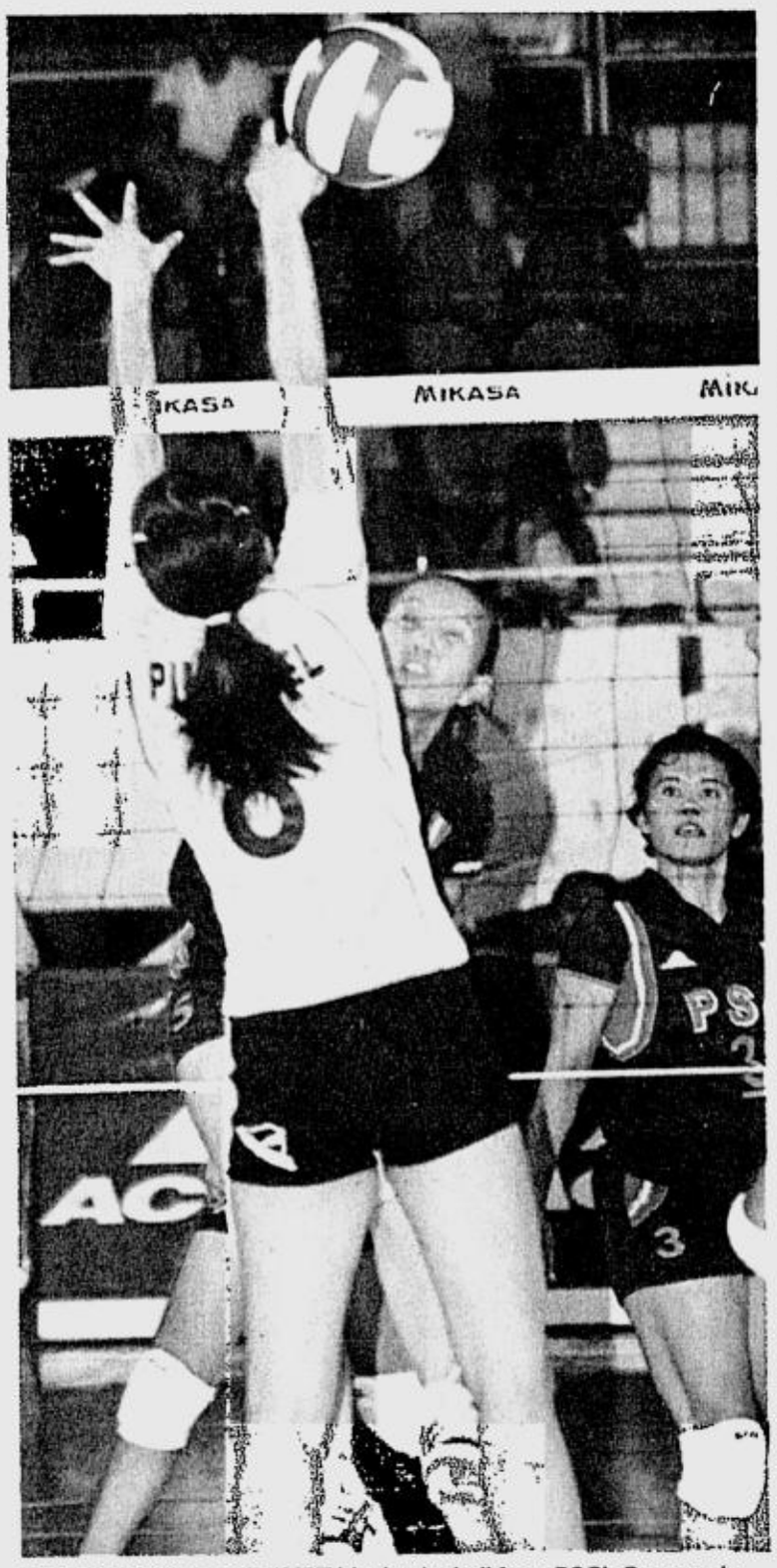
Philippine five-time executive grand champion Dr. Jenny Mayor finished with 5.5 points and shared eighth to 13th places with National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) director Wilfredo Abalos.

India dominated the Asian Youth Championships with eight individual and seven team gold medals.

The Philippine age-group participants were Marco Polo Rosete (5.5 points), Jesus Alfonso Datu (4.5), Randolf Dalauta (4.5), Leo Daylo Jr. (4.5) and Miggo Vittorio Mejico (2.5) in the boys' 14-under; Franz Robert Grafil (5.5), Jose Valera Jarvis (3.0) and Aleksandrei Raphael Juloya (2.5) in the boys' 12-under and Jimri de la Cruz (2.5) in the boys' 10-under; Maria Virginia Gonzales (4.0) and Mary Meolla Villanueva (3.5) in the girls' 14-under; Jedara Docena (6.0) in the girls' 12-under, and Jeselle Anne Cara (2.0) in the girls' 10-under.

*NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



ROXANNE Pimentel of UST blocks the ball from PSC's Rosemarie Parochina during their recent duel. RUDY ESPERAS

# Tigresses stake clean record vs Lady Pirates in V-League

UNBEATEN defending champion University of Santo Tomas and resurgent Lyceum clash today in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Although the UST Tigresses appear awesome with their four-game streak, including an emphatic straight-set victory over the Lady Tams last Thursday, the Lady Pirates have regained their bearing and form after dropping their first two games by posting back-to-back victories.

That makes the 1 p.m. encounter doubly interesting with the Muralla-based spikers expected to come out strong and spring a surprise against the most fancied team in the fold.

UST coach August Sta. Maria knows fully well the challenge ahead.

"*Malakas din ang* team *na ito, magaling din dumepensa* (This team is also strong, it is good defensively)," said Sta. Maria, who drew a combined 31 hits from Kate Co Yu Kang, Roxanne Pimentel and Mary Jean Balse in their victory over FEU that lasted a little more than an hour.

The power-hitting troika is again expected to lead UST in its quest for a fifth straight victory heading into the holiday break of this event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Dunkin Donuts, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, Smart and PLDT with Mikasa and Accel as official volleyball and outfitter, respectively.

In the other game, FEU hopes to improve its 1-4 (win-loss) slate as it plays hard-luck San Sebastian College in the 3 p.m. encounter. The Lady Stags are winless in four games.

The UST-Lyceum game will be telecast on IBC 13 starting at 3 p.m. while the FEU-SSC encounter will be aired tomorrow, also at 3 p.m.

# Morales rules out Pacquiao rumble, eyes new division

By Salven L. Lagumbay
*Contributor*

ERIK Morales, another great Mexican fighter, has ruled out a future rumble with Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao.

While admitting he would have loved a clash with Pacquiao, recent developments have ruined the possibility of Morales colliding with the Ring Magazine featherweight champion next year.

"I'd like to take on Manny Pacquiao, but I think he's already set for Juan Manuel Marquez," said Morales during a well-attended get-together with the media in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he and his girlfriend are currently vacationing.

Pacquiao will be going for the WBA-IBF title of Marquez again on Feb. 26, 2005 in a rematch of their first encounter last May that ended in a draw.

If Pacquiao wins, Morales said the Filipino would likely go for a second meeting with Marco Antonio Barrera, who had beaten him in their epic third fight recently.

Morales said he does not have the luxury of time waiting for a bout with Pacquiao because he wants to move up to the next higher division.

"Most likely I'll fight next between March and April and I think I'd do the last fight at 130 pounds before going up to 135," said Morales.

"Next September, though, I'll challenge for the 135-lb title as I think my friend Jose Luis Castillo (current WBC lightweight champ) will also go up in weight."

Morales came to Argentina upon the invitation of cable channel Space which has asked him to annotate his own fights in a special program that Space will air on Saturday on the South Cone of South America.

"I'm here on vacation, though it's always good to also think of doing some business," Morales told Fightnews.

"We're planning to bring some Mexican fighters that I represent to fight in Argentina next year," he added.

When asked on his take about Oscar De La Hoya as a promoter, Morales told Fightnews: "I think De La Hoya's ego is bigger than the boxers he manages. That's why you can see his name all around the place when he puts a fight on. Yet, the only big fight his company won was Barrera against me. Without a doubt, the best promotional company is Top Rank."

"From now on I'll fight for any title that I can afford to. No more 100-percent loyalty to the WBC, yet I acknowledge their titles, along with WBA's, are the most prestigious ones," Morales said.

"Unfortunately, there still is racism in the US when it comes to boxing. That's why Mexican fighters have to do 'something else,' 'something special' in order to gain the TV companies' recognition," he added.

# PMI woodpushers rule Cusa tourney

PHILIPPINE Maritime Institute ruled the 10th Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) chess tournament at the Function Room of World Citi Colleges recently.

The Admirals finished with 39.0 points to share top spot with Technological Institute of the Philippines and take home the title after the tiebreak.

The team handled by International Master Ildefonso Datu is composed of Arnel Dableo, younger brother of reigning Asian 3.2a Zonal champ International Master Ronald Dableo, Anatoly Neri, Ricardo Salvador, Jilly Maximo and Russell Bautista.

Far third was Metro Manila College with 29.5 points, the same output of fourth placer St. Jude College and fifth placer Manuel L. Quezon University.

The victory in chess was the third in five events this year for the Sta. Cruz-based squad following their success in men's and women's basketball. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

# The historic, 4-year MOA

SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

MANY called after reading my piece here yesterday where I mentioned about a basketball milestone—the cementing of partnership between the Philippine Basketball Association and the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Amid detraction and misguided missiles aimed more at destroying than developing basketball in the land, here come PBA Commissioner Noli Eala and BAP secretary general Graham Lim signing a historic Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure a harmonious relationship from here on between the country's major basketball forces. In case somebody missed out on the MOA's first point that I wrote about here yesterday, I'm printing below all eight points of the MOA.

1. The selection, formation, training and maintenance of the Philippine National Men's (Seniors) Basketball Team that will compete in elite international events enumerated hereunder shall be solely and exclusively vested in the PBA.

2. The Philippine National Basketball Team that will be handled by the PBA in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall participate and compete in the following international events: a) Fiba-Asia men's Championship, b) R. William Jones Cup, and c) Fiba-Asia Champions Cup—provided that, in the case of the Fiba-Asia Champions Cup, the PBA may opt at its own discretion, to send a PBA-member professional team with imports; provided, finally, that the BAP and PBA may mutually agree to allow the PBA-backed team to participate and compete in other elite international tournaments as both parties may deem fit and appropriate.

3. This agreement shall commence upon signing hereof and end in December 31, 2008. This agreement may be renewed upon mutual agreement of the parties.

4. In carrying the task of selecting, forming, and training and maintaining the Philippine National Men's Team, the PBA shall be authorized and allowed to exclusively raise and source the necessary funding which shall include but not limited to Team Sponsorship and Merchandising, Sale of Television Coverage Rights and Receipts from Ticket Sales of Exhibition Games of the Men's Team.

5. The PBA shall have full and complete control in the disbursement of the funds raised for the Philippine National Men's Team, provided that the BAP shall receive a developmental subsidy, the amount of which shall be agreed upon at a later date.

6. Upon signing hereof, the PBA will start the formation of the national squad by appointing and naming the National Team's head coach. Said head coach shall have sole authority to choose his coaching staff. Said head coach shall also present his player selection process, training program, competition schedule and team budget and will present his "program of action" for the team to the PBA for approval of the necessary funding for said program. The BAP will submit a short list of three (3) coaches from which the National Team head coach will choose one (1) who will then serve as one of three (3) assistant coaches. The BAP and PBA will make a joint public announcement of the appointment of the head coach and his staff.

7. The Philippine National Team to the ABC Men's Basketball Championship, the Jones Cup and the ABC Champions Cup for the next four years (up to year 2008) will avail of the funds/arrangements, if any, provided for and undertaken by the organizers of the said competitions as far as the corresponding plane fare, billeting accommodations, and the like for the Philippine Men's National Team are concerned. In this connection, the BAP will take charge of the documentation of the official men's basketball delegation to the said international competitions, including travel papers and the required accreditation from the organizers.

8. All other matters not covered by this Agreement shall be discussed by the parties and mutually agreed upon taking into consideration the general interest of the team and Philippine basketball.

BAP president Tiny Literal and PBA chair Buddy Encarnado acted as witnesses to the signing of the MOA.

***

FASTBREAK. Belated birthday greetings to the living cycling legend, Jesus A. Garcia Jr., who turned a new leaf yesterday, a day after boxing idol Manny Pacquiao turned 26 on Dec. 17. Like Rob Dix, the chicks king of Northern Luzon, Pacquiao also distributed grocery items to the folk of GenSan, his city of birth. Rob, together with his wife Rose, did their own gift-giving yesterday to their neighbors and employees at Chix Unlimited in Barangay Casilagan. Cheers!

# Negros Oriental to host national students

THE PROVINCE of Negros Oriental and the city of Dumaguete will host the 59th edition of the National Students Basketball Championship on Feb. 27 to March 5, 2005.

This was confirmed by Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz, who, together with key officials of the province, met with Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) secretary general Graham Lim on Thursday to iron out the details of the tournament.

This will be the first time that Negros Oriental will host the event also known as the National Inter-Secondary and Inter-Collegiate Basketball Championships.

Last year's national students caging was held in Lucena, Quezon, through Gov. Wilfredo Enverga.

Governor Arnaiz was accompanied by provincial board members Marcelo "Bobbot" Adanza and Roel Degamo, former board member Melimor Saycon and city councilor Banny Mamigo.

"Through this tournament, we hope to showcase our province as a prime tourist destination and a sports mecca as well," said Arnaiz, himself a sportsman who is into diving and other adventure sports.

Last year's champions Philippine Maritime Institute (seniors), San Beda College (juniors) and Lyceum (women's) will be back to defend their crowns against the top teams from the country's various regions.

As hosts, Negros Oriental is allowed to field a team in all three categories. Four college teams, meanwhile, will be coming from the National Capital Region, including reigning titlist PMI.

GRAHAM Lim (left) and Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz seal the province's hosting of the 59th National Students Basketball Championships. With them are provincial board members Melimor Saycon (2nd from left), Roel Degamo, Marcelo Adanza and Dumaguete City councilor Banny Mamigo (2nd from right).

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A DIVING Mi-Ran Lim of Korea steals second base as RP Blu Girl Nimpa Baral fumbles. JESS YUSON

# Japanese Asian softball champs; Blu Girls fifth

POWERHOUSE Japan whitewashed surprise finalist Chinese-Taipei in a game devoid of drama and fire, 5-0, to capture the eighth Asian women's softball championship yesterday at the Rizal Memorial stadium.

Three pitchers who led the Japanese to a bronze medal finish in the last Olympic Games again did a magnificent job, combining for a three-hitter as Japan regained the crown it lost to eventual third placer China in 1987.

Juri Takayama threw a one-hitter in four innings, reliever Yukuki Ueno shut out the opposition in two innings of relief and closer Yuko Endo gave up two as the Japanese proved too classy and too good for a Taiwanese squad making its first ever appearance in the finals.

Still, it was a memorable stint for the Taiwanese, who were never expected to go this far in the tournament that attracted a record-tying 12 nations.

The Taiwanese moved up in the one-game finals against the heavily favored Japanese after beating China, 5-4, earlier in the day.

The top three finishers advanced to the world meet in 2006 in Beijing.

While the Japanese hurlers silenced the Taiwanese bats, their teammates frolicked in offense against Taiwanese starter Chuen Ming-hui and reliever Lin Su-hua, who gave up a total of six hits.

Emi Enoi led Japan's big offensive with two hits, including a double with two outs in the second inning of the title playoff on a windless afternoon before a crowd of 1,000.

The Japanese clinched their fourth title since the inaugural tournament in 1967 in Manila, tying the title harvest of fallen champion, China, which ruled the last four editions in an amazing streak that started in 1987 in Tokyo.

Japan last won the championship in 1974 in Manila at the expense of an RP team led by Aleli Nabong, Letty Gempisao and Julita Tayo.

In an earlier game, the Philippine Blu Girls salvaged a 10-9 win over South Korea, to place fifth in the meet organized by the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines headed by former Manila Congressman Harry C. Angping.

Reliever Haidilyn Arca pitched her way out of trouble in the upper seventh inning, retiring Kim Ji Eun for the final out with runners on first and second base to stop a late, but determined rally by the Koreans.

The Blu Girls, who have never won this tournament, earned the right to challenge the Koreans for fifth place by beating Indonesia in an abbreviated game in the morning, 12-1.

The Taiwanese stunned the heavily favored Chinese, thanks to a run-scoring single to center by Li Ching off Yu Hui in the eighth inning that ended the tight contest.

With their bats booming, the Blu Girls scored two runs in the first, three in the second and another two in the third before adding another three in the fifth and sixth innings for a 10-5 lead.

But the Koreans refused to go down without a fight and bunched in four runs on three hits off the tiring Arca in a scorching rally that ended when Eun flied out to center on a 1-3 pitch for the final out.

CHAMPS: Carito Villaroman (third from right) and other winners of the Ideal Travel and Tours Invitational Pro-Am, from left, Tetsuo Ochi, Rey Alit and Juvic Pagunsan display their trophies during Tuesday's awarding ceremonies. Others in photo are, ITT chair Nicole Uri (second from left) and ITT director Kurt Verano (right).

# Namssa to honor year's best riders

IN A FITTING year-ender, the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA) will honor the best and the brightest personalities in local motorcycle sports in the annual awards night on Dec. 22.

Caltex Revtex's Glen Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres, who dominated the local motocross scene in the year about to end, head the list of awardees in the annual awards night starting at 7 p.m. at The Penthouse Club in Makati.

Aguilar made history by winning an unprecedented eighth straight "Rider of the Year" award in the 2004 Philippine National Motocross Series held in Tuguegarao, La Union and Puerto Princesa City, Palawan and the 2004 Camel Motocross Series held in Roxas City and Bacolod City.

San Andres, the "Wonder Boy" of local motocross, is the runaway winner of the "Rookie of the Year" award. The Caltex campaigner from Valenzuela routed his older and more-experienced rivals in the novice open and novice 125 categories.

NAMSSA president Ken Falco and FIM Asian Motocross, Supercross & Enduro Commission President director Macky Carapiet will present the awards to the outstanding riders this year.

Also to be awarded are Jolet Jao, who swept the titles in both the Shell Advance Super Bike Series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit and the Shell Advance Super Scooter Series organized by the E.L. Racing Technology; and La Union's Patrick Orbe, who copped the peewee title over equally talented Jeric Mitra of Nueva Ecija and Rafael Enriquez of Team Dickies-PAL.

Other citations are for Raphael Enriquez as Visayan Peewee Motocorss Champion, Joanna Areglado Visayan Junior Motocross Champion and Camel Filters for supporting the development of motocross in the country today.

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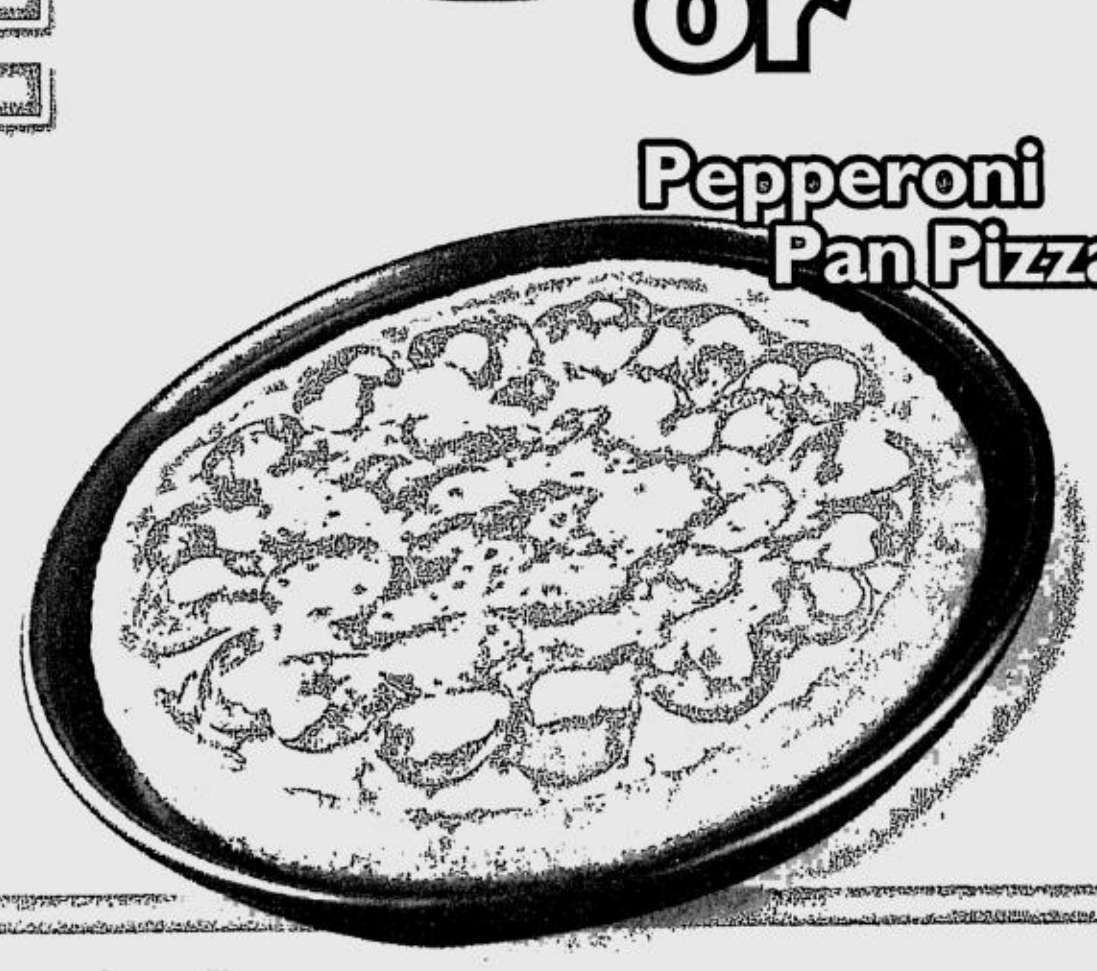

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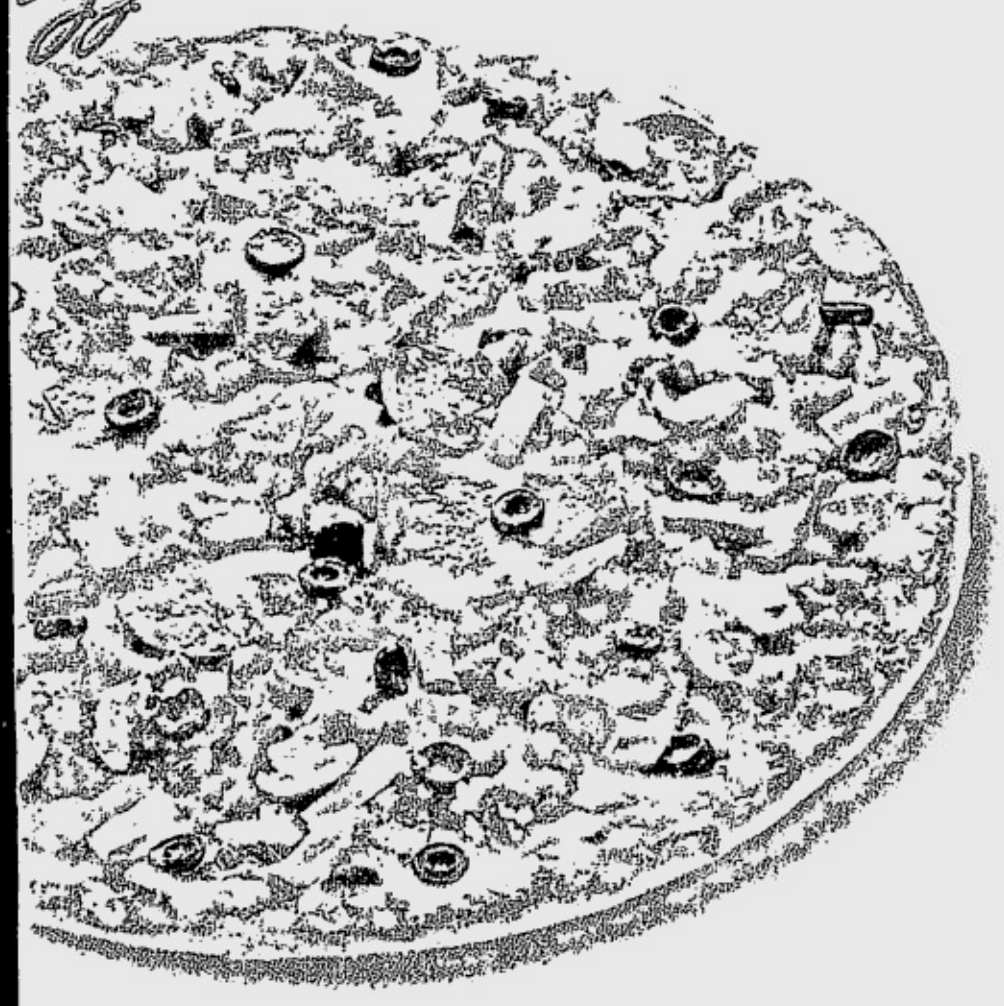

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6066, Series of 2004.

# Wildcats extinguish Flaming Arrows, gain NCRAA q'finals

THE NATIONAL College of Business Administration Wildcats needed a big push from Eric Tingzon in the final quarter to beat the Arellano University Flaming Arrows, 77-66, Friday and gain the last quarterfinals berth in the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament at the EAC gym.

Tingzon tallied a game-high 27 points and came up with heads-up plays in the last 10 minutes, allowing the Wildcats to join Rizal Technological University in the Group B quarterfinals after both finished the elimination round with 6-2 win-loss records. Early qualifiers La Salle-Dasmariñas and Arellano also wound up at 6-2.

NCBA's triumph enabled the Wildcats to avoid complications going into the quarterfinals.

In Group A, Jester Ebuen hit 14 points as Emilio Aguinaldo College swept its seven-game assignment and formalized its entry into the quarterfinals.

Carlo Castillo shot two triples with 5:07 to go to help the Generals move ahead by 10 in the second quarter, 32-22.

Tingzon hit nine points in the last canto, including a triple with 8:08 left, which broke a 55-all count. This touched off a decisive 8-0 run which put the Wildcats in control in the remaining time, 63-55.

Tingzon's layup with 4:51 remaining saw the Wildcats taking a 68-59 edge while George de la Cruz's putback 30 seconds later allowed NCBA to move ahead, 70-61.

Meanwhile, the league takes a break during the Christmas holidays and will resume hostilities in January 2005.

**The scores:**

**First game**

**EAC 96**—Ebuen 14, Sabado 13, Songco 9, Quiambao 9, Rivera 8, Musni 8, Castillo 8, Villapando 4, Baybay 4, Valderama 3, Buenafe 3, Pasaol 2.

**LA SALLE-MANILA 61**—Nieves 13, Albano 8, Borlaza 8, Bagos 8, Vijandre 5, Sy 5, Chang 4, Teves 2, Meneses 1, Reyes 1.

**Halftime:** 42-32.

**Second game**

**NCBA 77**—Tingzon 27, Opalla 13, Torculas 12, De la Cruz 11, Ruales 8, Santos 4, Sugultan 2, Kong 0.

**ARELLANO 66**—Martinez 16, Bolivar 17, Daroya 11, Carino 9, Martinez 6, Tumulak 3, Magcawas 2, Estilo 2.

**Halftime:** 40-33.

# Real Spicy leads Esguerra stable Juvenile entries

By Edwin Villanueva
*Contributor*

HERMIE Esguerra's three-pronged threat in Real Spicy, Eye Candy and Euro Bucks is what the other contenders will try to dismantle in the P1.67-million Juvenile Championship today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

And what makes experts foresee that either one of them might just run away with the cool P1 million top prize in the 1,600-meter battle among 2-year-old gallopers?

First, Real Spicy is on a roll, breezing through five straight wins since Aug. 27 and a sixth appears bright on the horizon with ace jockey Pat Dilema once again manning the reins for this afternoon's journey sponsored by the Philracom and Manila Jockey Club.

On the other hand, Eye Candy is leaning on her familiarity with the Carmona, Cavite, track since she has yet to taste defeat here in six outings.

As for Euro Bucks, this could be the right time to click because the distance is in her favor.

Although Real Spicy, a son of former US Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Real Quiet and the 2nd leg champion of the Juvenile Championship Series, is expected to go up as the first pick alongside his coupled bet Eye Candy, there's one problem that might go against his goal to keep his winning run intact.

Real Spicy will be running for the first time over the one-mile distance, which augurs well for both Eye Candy and Euro Bucks who will run under the Herma Farms colors.

*"Kailangang mai-pace ko nang mabuti pero tingin ko kaya niya yung distansiya* (I need to pace him well but I think he can handle the distance)," said Dilema, whose mount is unbeaten in four starts at the SLLP so far.

Jesse Guce is once again handling Eye Candy, a narrow loser to another Esguerra bet, Lamborghini, in the recent Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies.

*"Ganuon uli ang diskarte. Magaling yan pag nanggagaling sa likod* (Just like the same strategy. She's good when coming off the back)," said Guce on the daughter of Mr. Sutter and Rare Rusty Rose.

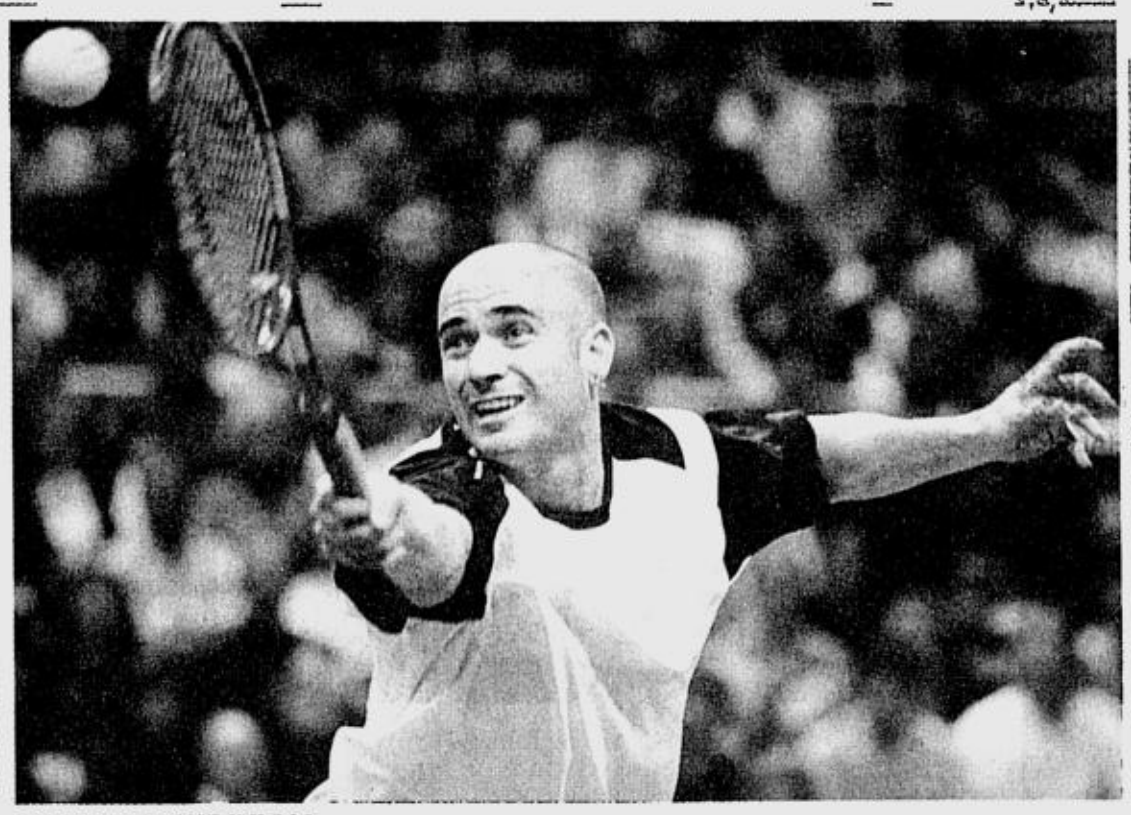
Esguerra has decided to keep veteran Virgilio Camañero Jr. for Euro Bucks after the partnership landed a strong third in the MBC Juvenile Fillies and won impressively in the Class Division last Dec. 5.

Looming as the toughest challengers for the Esguerra Stable entries are Cool Mount, Tiger Song and In Command. Completing the cast are Money for Rap, Manila Magic and Pyramid Relaunch.

Cool Mount was runnerup to Smokin' Red in the MBC Juvenile Colts. Tiger Song arrived fifth in the MBC Juvenile Fillies after topping the Woodridge Heights race, while In Command is aiming to score a victory for Philtobo head Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr. and son Pierre.

Aside from the P1 million first placer's prize, chair Jimmy Dilag and commissioner Eddie Jose said the Philracom is also giving P376,759, P209,250 and P84,000 to the second, third and fourth finishers, respectively.

"We are honored to host this year's Juvenile Championship," said MJCI head Alfredo Reyno Jr. *"Imbitado po kayong lahat na dumalo dito sa* SLLP (You're all invited here at the SLLP)."



**TENNIS EXHIBITION**
Andre Agassi returns a serve off of Andy Roddick during the Rock-N-Racquets exhibition tournament at the University of South Alabama's Mitchell Center. AP

# Unseeded Villarete clinches 18-under tennis semis slot

RAYMOND Villarete became the first unseeded player to make the semifinals after knocking off Niko Katigbak, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday in the 18-under division of the Gov. Akbar age-group tennis championships at the Philippine Columbian Association courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco.

Another unseeded player, Jonathan Murrell, was hoping to make it a battle of unranked bets as he was battling No. 2 seed Christian Canlas at presstime.

Villarete is gunning for a first major win in the local age-group scene via this event presented by Basilan Governor Muslim "Wahab" Akbar.

Trudy Amoranto and Michelle Pang, the top two seeds in the distaff side, sealed a title duel by downing separate foes.

Amoranto defeated Angelica Ngo, 6-3, 6-0, while Pang shrugged off Julie Em Botor, 6-4, 6-0.

Botor, however, reached the finals of the 14-under class when she beat Christine Patrimonio, daughter of Alvin Patrimonio, 6-2, 6-4.

Botor will slug it out for the title against Regina Santiago, who ousted JV Custodio, 6-3, 6-0.

Meanwhile, No. 1 Kim Saraza beat Tim Polero, 6-1, 6-1, in the boys' 12-under semis while Clarisse Patrimonio, Christine's sister and the top seed in the 12-under girls class, defeated Irina Quinatadcan, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Boys' 14-under top pick Patrick Arevalo tripped Jose Opulencia, 6-3, 6-4, to advance to the finals of this tournament also backed by Dynamic Sports Corp., Chris Sports Plaza and with Penn as official balls.

# Santa Ana holds evening races

THOROUGHBRED racing begins tomorrow at the Santa Ana Park as Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) opens its Yuletide program with an evening card of eight races.

The event jump starts PRCI's racing schedule from Dec. 20-24 before resuming on Dec. 26. No races have been scheduled for Dec. 25.

Another round of eight races are scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday, with nine and 13 races allotted for the Thursday and Friday programs, respectively. A total of 14 races will be held on Dec. 26.

Starting time for PRCI's Dec. 20-23 cards will be at 6 p.m., while its Dec. 24 and 26 cards will commence at 1:30 p.m.

Coming off a record-setting P45.7-million race day last Dec. 5, expectations are high that a new record may well be set on Dec. 26.

Race 1—1. Noble Win 2. Queen of D Jungle 3 Bari Bari 4. Sweet Inspiration
Race 2—1. Simply Good 2. Holy Smoke 3. Rockwell 4. Scarlet Velvet
Race 3—1. Native Land 2. Flying Jordan
Race 4—1. Speed Advantage 2. At All Cost 3 Showman 4. Golden Harry 5. Star Material
Race 5—1. Amazing Firenze 2. Sovereign Queen 3. Guest House 4. Eden's Quest
Race 6—1. Heroics 2. District Three
Race 7—1. Real Spicy/Eye Candy 2. Euro Bucks 3. Cool Mount 4. Tiger Song 5. In Command
Race 8—1. Refreshing 2. Bingbong 3. Stradivarius 4. Juanito's Dream 5. Western Dancer 6. Take Ten
Race 9—1. Earl Gray 2. Windlass 3. Unbreakable
Race 10—1. Being There 2. Bulakeña 3. Speed Machine 4. Perfect Storm
Race 11—1. Loaded 2. Rivaldo 3. I Miss You 4. Silver Music 5. Astimegoesby
Race 12—1. Ghurka 2. Modern Spirit 3. Striker/day and Night 4. Perfect Harry
Race 13—1. War Hero/Shower of Stars 2. Elite 3. Dato's Pride/Divine Diva 4. Better Strike 5. Hazmagic 6. Doña Gelay

RACING TIPS
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Republic of the Philippines
MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY
Batac 2906 Ilocos Norte

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The President of Mariano Marcos State University was appointed Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education effective 28 October 2004. The position was, therefore, declared vacant effective on the same day.

Accordingly, a Search Committee for the Presidency has been organized pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 8292.

Applicants must possess the minimum qualifications and must submit the required documents as follows:

**Minimum Qualifications of Applicants**

1. Filipino citizen
2. Holder of an earned doctoral degree
3. Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old at time of application
4. At least five (5) years of managerial experience
5. Recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe or industry
6. Morally upright

**Documents to be Submitted**

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae and certified supporting documents
2. Proposed Vision, Mission and Trusts for the University
3. Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Sandigan Bayan, Civil Service Commission and previous employer.
4. Full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines
5. Results of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination to be accomplished by any government physician of an accredited health institution
6. Health Certificate from a government physician

All applications must be submitted in seven (7) copies to the Search Committee through the Secretariat on or before January 15, 2005.

Dr. Alegria T. Visaya
Acting Secretary, Board of Regents/SCP
Mariano Marcos State University
Batac 2906 Ilocos Norte
Tel. No. 077-792-2560
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(PDI—Dec. 14, 19 & 24, 2004)

GOLF YEARENDER

# Singh season's best; Els not so far behind

PARIS—Vijay Singh turned the golf world upside down this year as he went on a winning spree that left his rivals trailing in his wake.

By the time the season had ended the Fijian had amassed more than $10 million in winnings and collected nine titles, including the US PGA.

SINGH: The best

It was a stunning year for the 41-year-old who, instead of coming to the end of his career looked to be coming to his peak.

But if Singh was undoubtedly the player of the year, as well as the new world number one, South African Ernie Els had arguably as good a year, if not better.

The 'Big Easy' had a chance to win all four majors. Only a birdie putt on the 18th by Phil Mickelson at Augusta, stopped him from winning the coveted green jacket.

At the US Open, he went into the final round poised to make amends for his Masters heartbreak only to collapse on the Sunday and see fellow countryman Retief Goosen collect his second US Open title.

Els was looking at 'third time lucky' when he arrived for the British Open and when he went into a playoff against the unheralded American Todd Hamilton, Els appeared poised to lift the Claret Jug for a second time.

But Hamilton, who had plied his trade in Asia, proved he was not a player who could be overawed by the company he was keeping.

The American beat Els, leaving a frustrated Els wondering what he had to do to win another major.

In the PGA championship at Whistling Straits, Els missed the three-man playoff by a single stroke as Singh went on to defeat Justin Leonard and Chris DiMarco.

For Els, it was a stunning blow that shattered his confidence and put him into depression. But after two weeks of going over what might have been, Els arrived in Ireland for the World Golf Championship refreshed and positive.

"I've had two weeks off and time to reflect," said Els before going on to collect the one million dollar first prize. "There's a lot for me to play for in my career the next five, six years. I want to give it a good go."

Two weeks later, Els celebrated his 35th birthday in spectacular style by winning the World Match Play championship for a record sixth time.

The European quest to repeat the glory days of Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer and Jose-Maria Olazabal in the 1980s took a step closer to reality with a sensational Ryder Cup victory when they crushed the all-star American team by a record-breaking 18-1/2 to 9-1/2 points. *AFP*

## SPORTSWATCH

### Beach volleyball shown on TV

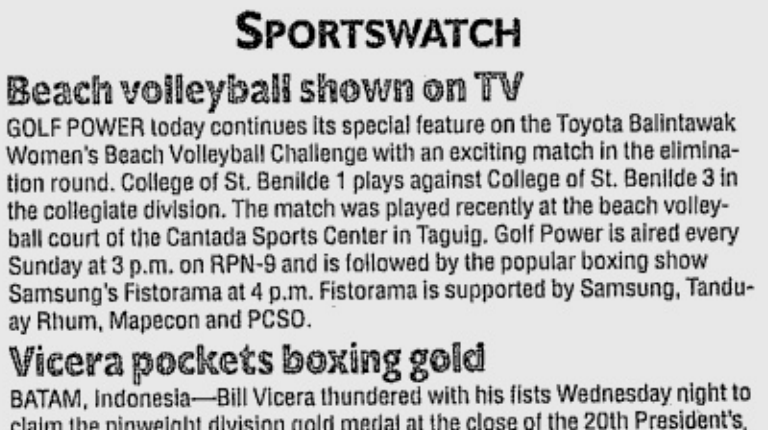
GOLF POWER today continues its special feature on the Toyota Balintawak Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge with an exciting match in the elimination round. College of St. Benilde 1 plays against College of St. Benilde 3 in the collegiate division. The match was played recently at the beach volleyball court of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig. Golf Power is aired every Sunday at 3 p.m. on RPN-9 and is followed by the popular boxing show Samsung's Fistorama at 4 p.m. Fistorama is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, Mapecon and PCSO.

### Vicera pockets boxing gold

BATAM, Indonesia—Bill Vicera thundered with his fists Wednesday night to claim the pinweight division gold medal at the close of the 20th President's Cup International Boxing Championships here. Scoring repeatedly with one-two combinations, Vicera routed Malaysian Nazri 27-13 to give the RP Alaxan FR Team its first gold medal in this world-ranking tournament which attracted 18 teams from 15 nations. The Filipinos, sent here by the Pacific Heights with support from the Philippine Sports Commission as part of the Amateur Boxing Association (ABAP) build-up program for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

### Mel Alas named Adamson coach

ADAMSON University named ex-Las Piñas coach Mel Alas, brother of Letran mentor Louie Alas, as the Falcon's chief tacticians for next year's UAAP wars. Alas replaced Luigi Trillo, whose five-year stint ended without a Final Four appearance. In his last year, though, Trillo ran into the unfortunate luck of having key players getting injured. Louie Alas was also named team consultant. The Alas brothers inherit a team that will lose five players, including stars Mark Abadia and Romel Tagupa.



**HOLIDAY GOLF:** The annual Christmas tournament of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines sponsored by Nike will be held tomorrow at the Canlubang and Riviera courses. Signing the sponsorship contract are, seated from left, Jungolf president Luigi Tabuena, Jungolf chair Amalia Montecillo and Cary Dy Buncio, PacSports, division head for Nike. Looking on are Jungolf International Events committee head Gerry Handog, Lloyd Matutina of PacSports and Jungolf director Tacho dela Paz.

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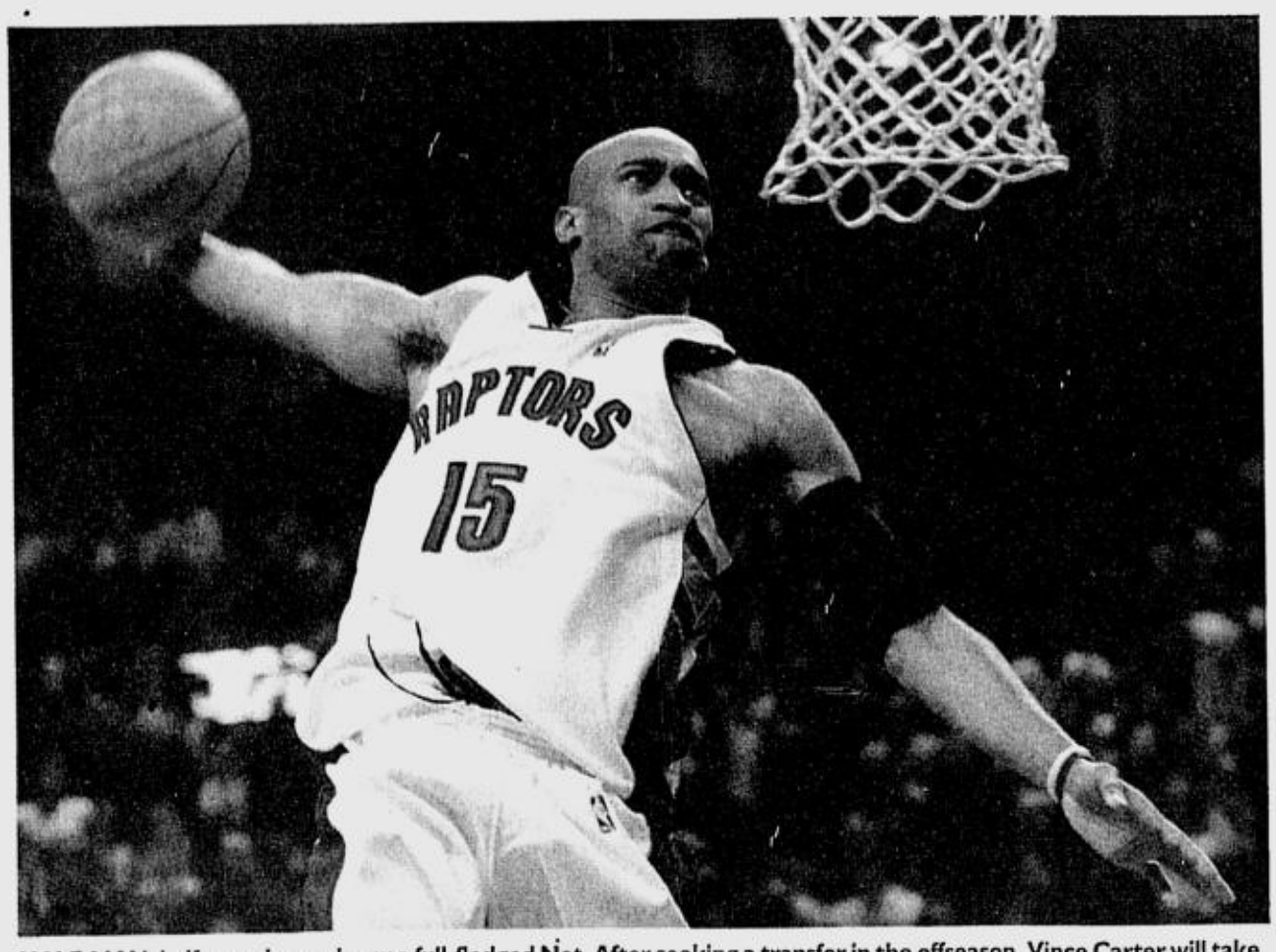


HALF-MAN, half-amazing and now a full-fledged Net. After seeking a transfer in the offseason, Vince Carter will take his high-flying, rim-rattling act to New Jersey in a deal that netted Toronto Alonzo Mourning and two other big men.

WISH GRANTED

# Carter traded to New Jersey

**INDIANAPOLIS—Vince Carter wanted out of Toronto and got his wish Friday, getting traded to the Nets for three players and two No. 1 picks in a deal that immediately raised the question: Will Jason Kidd still want out of New Jersey?**

The Nets sent Alonzo Mourning, Eric Williams, Aaron Williams and two first-round draft picks to the Raptors for Carter, a five-time All-Star whose production and popularity had tumbled in Toronto.

The Raptors had been exploring different trade options for weeks, though the Nets had not been one of the rumored destinations.

In New Jersey, the big question this season has been whether the Nets might take another step in their breakup and deal away the disgruntled Kidd after trading Kenyon Martin and Kerry Kittles in the offseason.

"I hope this changes his mind a little bit. I hope he will give it a chance and see where it goes from here," said Carter, Kidd's teammate on the 2000 US Olympic team.

Carter, out with a strained left Achilles' injury, will not be in uniform Sunday when the Nets play at Toronto.

Kidd, in Memphis with the Nets, sounded pleased by the trade but noncommittal about his future.

"I'm a Net until told otherwise," Kidd said. "I've always asked to be competitive, to put a competitive team out there, and that's what they're trying to do."

Mourning also was dissatisfied with the Nets' offseason moves and had asked for a trade. He appeared in 18 games while making a comeback from a kidney transplant, averaging 10.4 points and 7.1 rebounds.

Eric Williams had been starting at small forward for New Jersey, while Aaron Williams had dropped out of the Nets' rotation as a backup center.

Carter earned the nicknames "Air Canada" and "Half-Man, Half-Amazing" for his high-flying dunks, which breathed life into a moribund franchise and made him easily the biggest star to play in Canada since the NBA expanded there 10 years ago.

He spent all six-plus years of his career in Toronto and leaves the Raptors as the franchise leader in 10 categories, including scoring, 3-pointers made and games started.

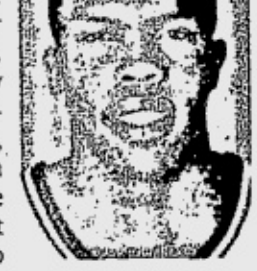
But his production has been on a slow decline since he averaged 27.6 points in 2000-01 and brought the Raptors within one victory of a trip to the conference finals. Carter has become less aggressive, often settling for jumpers rather than driving the ball and drawing contact, and he has been unable to shake a reputation of being a "soft" player.

Carter's current averages of 15.9 points and 3.3 rebounds are career-lows, as is his field goal percentage of .411.

Carter is headed to a Nets team that sorely missed the athleticism it lost when Martin left for Denver in the offseason. With Kidd healthy again and Richard Jefferson on one wing, New Jersey has a chance to return to the up-tempo style that made it one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference.

It seemed inevitable that Carter would be traded, but that didn't do much to soften the blow when the deal was announced.

"Any time you lose a guy like Vince, it's a big blow," Toronto forward Donyell Marshall said. "He was to Canada what Michael Jordan was to the Bulls." *AP*



MOURNING AP

A. WILLIAMS AP



E. WILLIAMS AP

# Pacers edge Raptors; Heat book 7th straight triumph

INDIANAPOLIS—Jamaal Tinsley scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half to lead the Indiana Pacers to an 89-86 victory over the Toronto Raptors, who traded All Star Vince Carter to New Jersey earlier Friday.

Rookie center David Harrison added a career-high 22 points and had seven rebounds, and Jeff Foster had 10 points and 18 rebounds for the Pacers, who won their second straight after a seven-game losing streak.

Reggie Miller sealed the win when he hit a jumper from the corner while falling out of bounds with a second left on the shot clock, giving the Pacers an 89-86 lead with 8.6 seconds left.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Jason Williams had a season-high 27 points and six assists to lead Memphis over short-handed New Jersey, 89-84.

Richard Jefferson, who had 18 of his 26 points in the fourth period, got the Nets within 85-84 with 16 seconds left when he followed Jason Kidd's missed layup. But four free throws by James Posey in the final 12 seconds sealed Memphis' victory.

The Nets hope to get a burst of offense soon from Vince Carter, a five-time All-Star who was acquired from Toronto earlier Friday (*see related story on this page*).

Pau Gasol scored 16 points for Memphis and grabbed 12 rebounds.

In Philadelphia, Allan Houston hit the tying 3-pointer with 0.4 seconds left in regulation, Kurt Thomas scored six points in overtime, and New York rallied from a 19-point deficit to frustrate Philadelphia, 113-107.

In Atlanta, Zach Randolph scored 23 points, and Darius Miles added 20 to lead Portland to a 100-84 rout of Atlanta.

In Boston, Gary Payton scored a season-high 27 points and added 11 assists to lift the host Celtics to a 114-106 victory over the Utah Jazz.

In Minneapolis, Wally Szczerbiak scored a season-high 29 points, including 11 in the third quarter, and Minnesota crushed the Los Angeles Clippers, 113-86.

In New Orleans, Tim Duncan had 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead San Antonio past the Hornets, 83-67, for the Spurs' third straight victory and 11th win in 13 games.

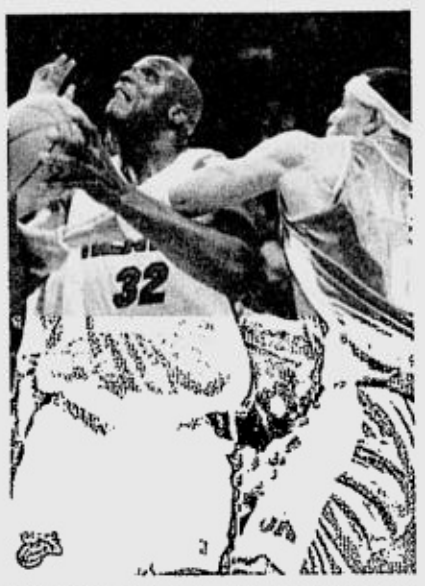
In Houston, Tracy McGrady had 27 points and nine rebounds, and Yao Ming added 15 points and a season-high 17 rebounds as the Rockets rapped Golden State, 100-83.

Bob Sura just missed his third career triple-double with 24 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for Houston, and sat out much of the fourth quarter with the Rockets leading by as many as 23.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 25 points, and Shaquille O'Neal had 20 to help Miami defeat the Denver Nuggets, 107-100, for its seventh straight win.

The Heat are 18-7, including 13-0 when eclipsing the 100-point plateau. This is their longest winning streak since a 10-game run during the 1997-98 season.

In Seattle, Joe Johnson had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Steve Nash and Shawn Marion each scored 21 as Phoenix edged Seattle, 112-110, in a showdown between the NBA's top two teams.



SHAQUILLE O'Neal baits a foul from Kenyon Martin in the second quarter of their match. AP

Amare Stoudemire added 20 points and nine rebounds for Phoenix, which became the first club to win 20 games this season, but the Suns had to outlast the Sonics in an exciting fourth quarter.

In Los Angeles, Gilbert Arenas scored 37 points, Larry Hughes had 31, and Washington beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 120-116, in overtime.

Winning for the first time on the Lakers' floor in almost 12 years, the Wizards overcame a 36-point, 14-assist, 10-rebound performance by Kobe Bryant. *AP*

# Monty stays on as player for Europe Ryder team

LONDON—Colin Montgomerie has withdrawn his name from the list of candidates to be Europe's next Ryder Cup captain after being persuaded he is still young enough to be involved as a player.

Montgomerie, 41, sank the winning putt that saw Europe retain the Cup at Oakland Hills in Michigan by an eventual record margin of 17.5 to 9.5 points in September.

The Scot had seen his world ranking drop from 41st to 80th in the world, prompting thoughts of captaincy which sees the golfer involved take a non-playing, managerial role.

But with the 36th Ryder Cup in Straffan, Ireland, just two years away, Montgomerie said he wanted to carry on playing.

"I've been told I'm too young," said Montgomerie, and when asked who had told him that he replied: "Everybody. And after hearing it I possibly have to agree. *AFP*

MARTINEZ: Dumbfounded AP

# This early, Martinez already bashing Red Sox

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Pedro Martinez returned home Friday and bashed the team he led to a World Series title. The pitching ace knocked the Boston Red Sox for their front-office moves and negotiating tactics, and predicted a rough season awaits.

"They will field the best bad team in baseball history," Martinez said at a news conference Friday.

One day after he was introduced by the New York Mets—who signed him to a four-year, $53 million contract—Martinez criticized the Red Sox for firing key employees, including team doctor Bill Morgan.

Martinez said he was "dumbfounded" to hear that fellow Dominican Manny Ramirez could be mentioned as possible trade bait after winning the World Series Most Valuable Player.

"After giving seven great years, (catcher) Jason Varitek, (pitcher) Derek Lowe and I were not signed," Martinez said.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner said the Mets "have shown more respect in days than Boston did in seven years."

Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein discounted the comments, and said Friday that Martinez is "a brilliant pitcher... an emotional person as well."

"It doesn't bother me," Epstein said. "I don't necessarily define myself by what anyone says about me, let alone a player that we just didn't sign to bring back to Boston. We'll be fine as an organization."

"I just don't put much stock in that. It's a heat of the moment type thing," Epstein said. "I choose to look at the man, not one comment."

Accompanied by Mets vice president Fred Wilpon, general manager Omar Minaya and Martinez's agent Fernando Cuza, Martinez said Boston had "every opportunity" to sign him in the past two years, even below market value.

"I'm a proud man and I think I deserve a little respect for the work I've done," he said. "I felt disillusioned and hurt by the way the Red Sox let me go so easily."

Red Sox principal owner John Henry said the club "offered Pedro exactly what he said it would take to sign him" when team officials visited Martinez in the Dominican Republic on Dec. 8. *AP*

# NY Yankees 'Big Unit' bid in danger

NEW YORK—A complicated three-team deal designed to bring five-time Cy Young award winner Randy Johnson to the New York Yankees was under threat on Friday.

The deal involved Los Angeles Dodgers all-star right fielder Shawn Green and starting pitcher Brad Penny moving to the Arizona Diamondbacks, while Johnson would move from Arizona to the Yankees. New York would then send starter Javier Vazquez to Los Angeles to complete the transaction.

"There's no deal," Arizona general partner Ken Kendrick told MLB.com on Friday.

Reports said the stumbling block appeared to be the Dodgers, who were having second thoughts about trading the hard-hitting Green after losing slugger Adrian Beltre to the Seattle Mariners on Thursday to a five-year $64 million contract.

Losing both hitters would leave the Dodgers with a power shortage at the plate. Beltre batted .334 with 48 homers and 121 RBIs last season, while Green hit .266 with 28 home and 86 RBIs.

JOHNSON

Green also has a no-trade clause in his contract and, according to ESPN.com, is also balking at a move to Arizona, preferring to stay in southern California.

However Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, who has coveted the 41-year-old Johnson for several seasons, is unlikely to let his latest efforts to acquire the future Hall of Fame pitcher simply fade away.

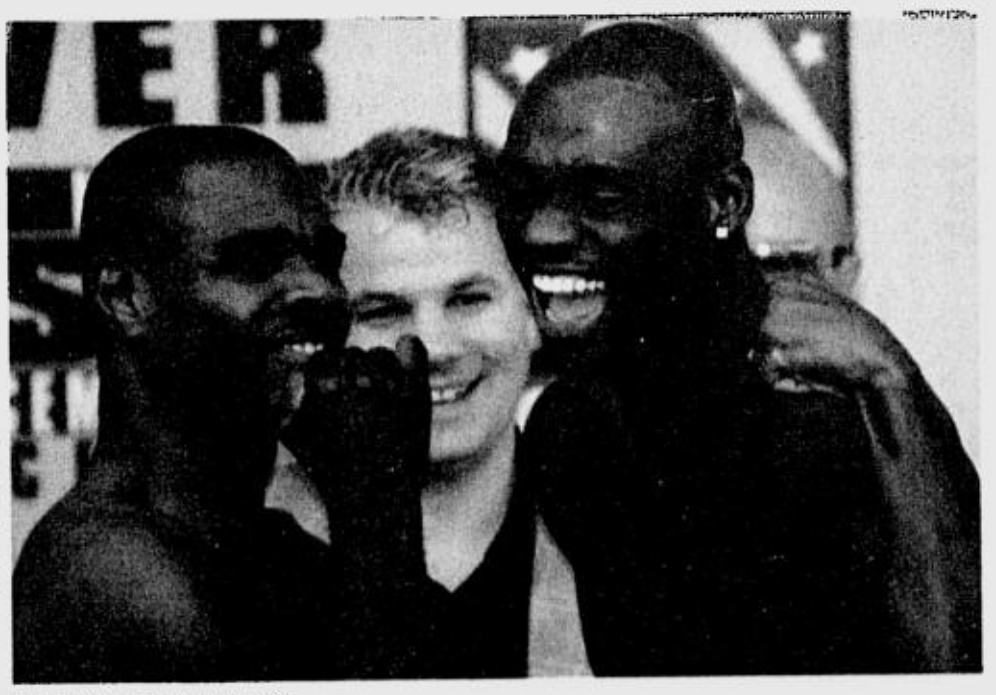
Despite his age, Johnson, who is in the second year of a $33-million two-year deal, remains one of the Major League's most dominant pitchers.

Last season, Johnson, nicknamed the "Big Unit," was one of the few bright spots on a woeful Diamondback team who lost 111 games, posting a record of 16-14. Among his wins was a perfect game against Atlanta on May 18.

He also led the league in strikeouts (290) for the ninth time in his career while posting the second best ERA (2.60) in the majors.

Meanwhile, Carl Pavano and the Yankees have finalized a deal that was set in motion at the winter meetings Saturday, reportedly agreeing on a four-year contract worth $40 million.

The deal contains a fifth-year team option worth $15 million and a $2 million buyout should the option not be picked up, ESPN.com reported Friday. *Reuters*



**READY TO RUMBLE**
Glen Johnson (left) and Antonio Tarver pose for pictures during the weigh-in for their Light Heavyweight fight in Los Angeles. AP

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* Teddyvic S. Melendres

# Cojuangco as PSC chair, too?

PEPING Cojuangco needed to ensure harmonious relationship between POC and PSC. PDI PHOTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHY NOT Peping Cojuangco as Philippine Sports Commission chair, too?

As the search for the successor of PSC chair Eric Buhain continues, some national sports association heads yesterday tossed the idea of Cojuangco assuming the key post on top of his new role as president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

If the main consideration is to ensure a harmonious relationship between the PSC and the POC, then the solution is to have one sports czar, according to the group of NSA heads led by athletics and chess president Go Teng Kok.

The NSA officials noted that this particular set-up worked wonders for Philippine sports during the time of Michael Keon, who served as Gintong Alay executive director and the POC chief at the same time in the '80s.

Gintong Alay, which handled the funding and training of the country's top athletes, was credited for touching off a renaissance in sports that, among others, produced an Asian Games superstar in Lydia de Vega-Mercado. It later became the inspiration for the creation of the PSC.

The officials added that the same set-up had spelled success for other Southeast Asian countries and even for sports superpowers like China and Korea because it practically eliminates clash of opinions between the heads of the two bodies.

They noted that Buhain had been at odds with outgoing POC head Celso Dayrit over several key issues as former POC chief Rene Cruz and former PSC head Aparicio Mequi before them.

Buhain announced earlier this week that he's leaving the PSC in the wake of a Malacañang order for him to take over as chair of the Games and Amusements Board.

Cojuangco, who is close to administration officials, refused to comment on the PSC issue even as he announced the composition of the different working committees in the POC.

Leading the major committees are Rep. Monico Puentevella (weightlifting) for membership, Bert Lina (cycling) for arbitration, Harry Angping (softball) for technical, Reynaldo Jaylo (judo) and Benny Gopez (golf) as co-chairs of ethics and Go in ways and means.

"These are not ceremonial committees we put up," said Cojuangco. "We put people there who are committed to work for the sake of Philippine sports."

Al Fernandez of athletics was named ways and means vice chair, Ed Ponce of karatedo as vice chair of arbitration, Sonny Lim of body building as vice chair of membership and volleyball's Roger Banzuela as vice chair of technical committee.

Also named to key positions were Cynthia Carrion in Women in Sports, Ding Tanjuatco in Constitution and By-Laws, Graham Lim in Referees/Judges, Red Dumuk in Sports for All, Sim Chi Tat in Sports and Environment, Sultan Jamalul Kiram in Cultural Committee and Quini Boy de Tagle in Corporate Communications.

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| • Valencia classic CG180-CE w/ pick up cut away | 6,900.00 | 5,175.00 | less 25% |
| • Hofner classic HAC204 | 5,000.00 | 3,750.00 | less 25% |
| • Hofner classic HAC304 | 5,900.00 | 4,425.00 | less 25% |
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| • SX electric FST57/2TS | 5,940.00 | 4,455.00 | less 25% |
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| • Fernando steel MG-94N | 2,350.00 | 1,762.50 | less 25% |
| • Fernando steel MG-94CS | 2,350.00 | 1,762.50 | less 25% |
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| • Fernando nylon DRC-971WA | 5,760.00 | 4,320.00 | less 25% |
| • Fernando electric EB9303/BK | 5,785.00 | 4,338.75 | less 25% |
| • Fernando elec bass EB9326/BL | 7,110.00 | 5,332.50 | less 25% |
| • Applause AA-27/RB | 10,730.00 | 8,047.50 | less 25% |
| • Applause AA-27/SB | 10,730.00 | 8,047.50 | less 25% |
| • Applause AE-126/4 | 17,300.00 | 12,975.00 | less 25% |
| • Ovation tangent T-247/5 | 36,036.00 | 27,027.00 | less 25% |
| • Ovation tangent MOB-47/BSB | 40,355.00 | 30,266.25 | less 25% |
| • Ovation W597/4G | 114,570.00 | 85,927.50 | less 25% |

| VIOLINS | Reg. Price | Sale Price | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Cremona SV100/102 1/8 | 3,715.00 | 2,095.00 | less 43% |
| • Cremona SV100/102 1/4 | 3,715.00 | 2,095.00 | less 43% |
| • Cremona SV100/102 1/2 | 4,210.00 | 2,495.00 | less 40% |
| • Cremona SV100/102 3/4 | 4,210.00 | 2,495.00 | less 40% |
| • Cremona SV100/102 4/4 | 4,210.00 | 2,495.00 | less 40% |
| • Hofner H-V040 4/4 | 5,750.00 | 4,312.50 | less 25% |
| • Hofner H-V060 4/4 | 6,900.00 | 5,175.00 | less 25% |

| ZILDJIAN CYMBALS | Reg. Price | Sale Price | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • 16" Thin Crash | 9,520.00 | 7,140.00 | less 25% |
| • 18" Medium Crash Brilliant | 10,700.00 | 8,025.00 | less 25% |
| • 18" Medium Thin Crash | 11,200.00 | 8,400.00 | less 25% |
| • 15" K Custom Dark Crash Thin | 11,027.00 | 8,270.25 | less 25% |

| DRUMS | Reg. Price | Sale Price | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Fernando drum outfit PVS16 | 17,475.00 | 13,106.25 | less 25% |
| • Fernando drum set NS-200L | 22,200.00 | 16,650.00 | less 25% |
| • Trak drum outfit MX-122LX ZBS3P ZBT pre packed 3pc | 27,334.00 | 19,900.00 | less 27% |
| • Trak drum outfit MX-563L ZBS3P ZBT pro packed 4pc | 39,020.00 | 28,900.00 | less 25% |
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# Jao, Buncio share Shell ROY titles

CARMONA, Cavite—Multititled Jolet Jao and Barny Buncio shared the limelight by emerging as "Riders of the Year" (ROY) in the 2004 Shell Advance Super Scooter Series at the Carmona Racing Circuit here over the weekend.

Finding little opposition, Jao topped the season-ending races in both the underbone 125 open and 50cc open to capture top honors in the annual event organized by E.L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance.

Jao outdueled Dustin Esguerra and Larry Zapanta in the underbone 125 open class and Vincent del Rosario and Buncio in the 50cc open to formalize his claim for top honors.

Equally impressive was Buncio, who dominated the underbone 110 cc and motard categories over his older and more experienced rivals.

Buncio finished only second to John Lery Enriquez in the season-ending race, but it was enough to clinch the title in the underbone 110 cc.

In the motard category, Buncio won over Jojo Villaries, Mike Alinganga, Noel Hernandez and Adrian Duran to rule the event.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

# ENTERTAINMENT

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*Editor* **Louie C. Camino**
*Assistant Editor* **Emmie G. Velarde**

'DA KING' with Caridad Sanchez, for whom he was also a friend and a hero.

## Dad's generosity not surprising, says FPJ daughter A5-1

MARY GRACE Llamanzares

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

## Caridad Sanchez loses a friend and a hero /A4-1

IZA CALZADO

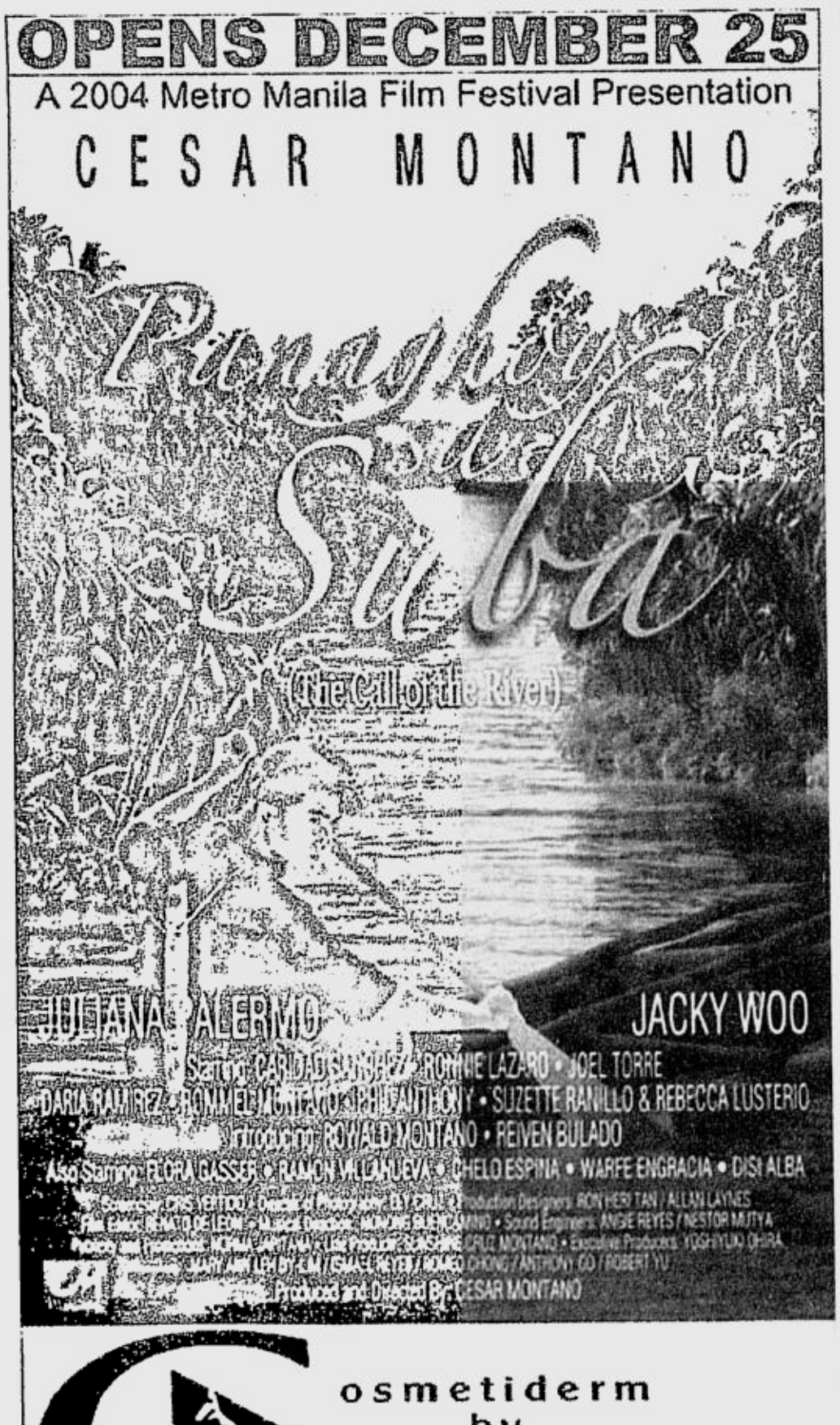
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

IMELDA ILANAN

RUDY ESPERAS

## How FPJ 'pursued' a pregnant leading lady /A2-1

## IZA'S SEASON /A4-3



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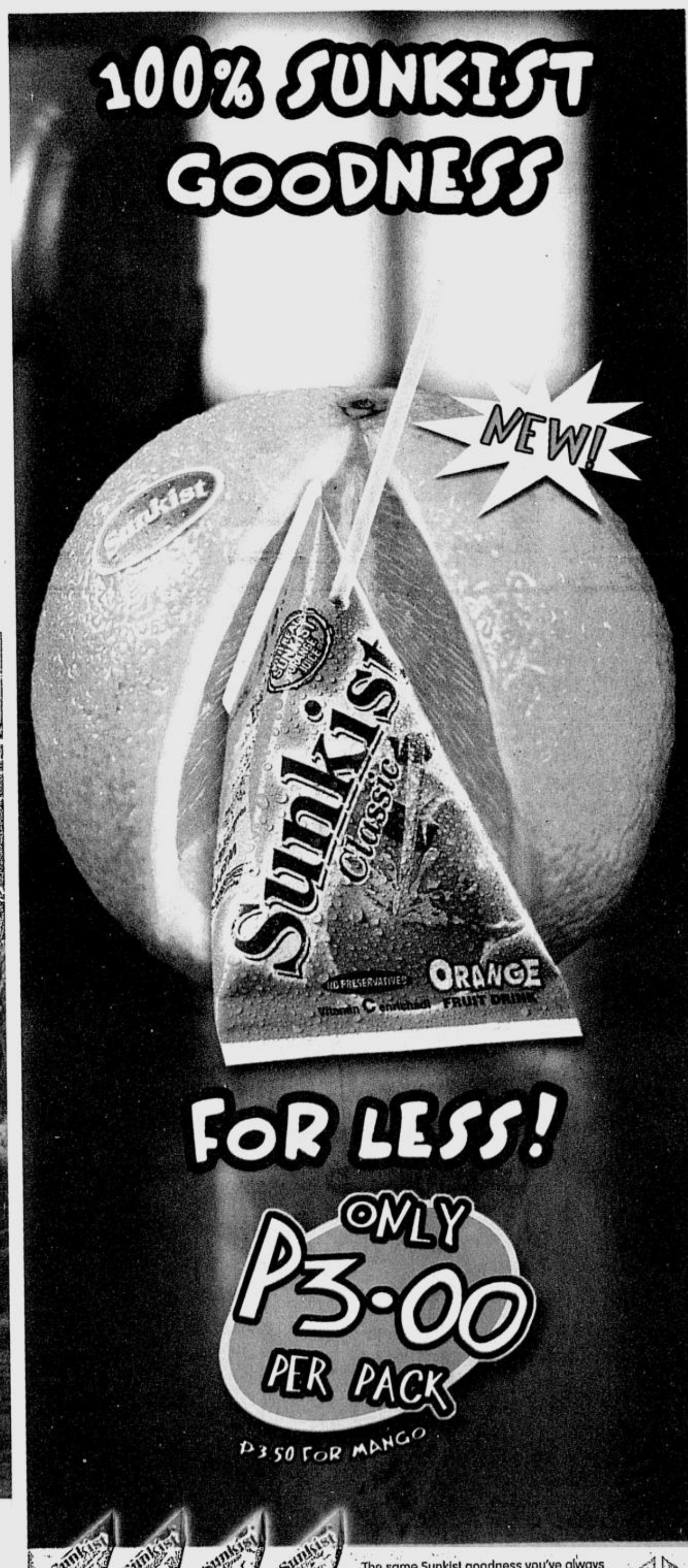

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sarah Geronimo | SARAH | 291 | Angelica Jones | ANGELICA | 326 | Raymond Manalo | RAYMOND | 291 |
| Judy Ann Santos | JUDAY | 326 | Katya Santos | KATYA | 291 | Viva Hotmen | HOTMEN | 291 |
| Jencho Rosales | ECHO | 326 | Andrea Del Rosario | ANDREA | 291 | Masculados | MASCULADOS | 326 |
| Kristine Hermosa | KRISTINE | 326 | Ella V | ELLA | 291 | Gary Estrada | GARY | 326 |
| Robin Padilla | ROBIN | 326 | Jen Rosendhal | JENR | 291 | Ana Capri | ANA | 326 |
| Marvin Agustin | MARVIN | 326 | Sheree | SHEREE | 291 | Mickey Ferriols | MICKEY | 326 |
| Dominic Ochoa | DOMINIC | 326 | Asia Agcaoili | ASIA | 291 | Angelino Aguilar | ANGELINE | 326 |
| Dolphy | DOLPHY | 326 | Gwen Garci | GWEN | 291 | Bernadette Allyson | BERNAALLISON | 326 |
| Manny Pacquiao | PACMAN | 290 | Myles Hernandez | MYLES | 291 | Regine Tolentino | REGINET | 326 |
| Mark Bautista | MARK | 291 | Dina Bonnevie | DINA | 326 | Patrick Garcia | PATRICK | 326 |
| Sheryn Regis | SHERYN | 291 | Angel Aquino | ANGEL | 326 | Chesca Garcia | CHESCA | 326 |
| Christian Bautista | CHRISTIAN | 291 | Albert Martinez | ALBERT | 326 | Francine Prieto | FRANCINE | 326 |
| Rachelle Ann Go | RACHELLE | 291 | Dice & K9 | DICEK9 | 291 | Greg Martin | GREG | 326 |
| Aubrey Miles | AUBREY | 326 | Nina | NINA | 291 | Troy Montero | TROY | 326 |
| Hazel Cabrera | HAZEL | 291 | Art Strong | ARTSTRONG | 291 | Tintin Bersola | TINTINBERSOLA | 326 |
| Ara Mina | ARA | 326 | Kitchie Nadal | KITCHIE | 291 | Carmina Villarroel | CARMINA | 326 |
| Pops Fernandez | POPS | 326 | Gloc9 | GLOC9 | 291 | Willie Revillame | WILLIE | 2213 |
| Joyce Jimenez | JOYCE | 326 | Divo | DIVO | 291 | | | |

**At pwede ring ka-text ang inyong favorite PBA Players!**

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Willie Miller | MILLER | 290 | Mark Telan | TELAN | 290 |
| Rich Alvarez | ALVAREZ | 290 | Patrick Fran | FRAN | 290 |
| Tony Dela Cruz | DELACRUZ | 290 | Nino Gelig | GELIG | 290 |
| James Yap | YAP | 290 | Francisco Omolon | OMOLON | 290 |
| Paul Artadi | ARTADI | 290 | Wesley Gonzales | GONZALES | 290 |
| Ronald Tubid | TUBID | 290 | Olsen Racela | RACELA | 290 |
| Alvin Patrimonio | PATRIMONIO | 290 | Danny Ildefonso | ILDEFONSO | 290 |
| John Ferriols | FERRIOLS | 290 | Dondon Hontiveros | HONTIVEROS | 290 |
| Kenneth Duremdes | DUREMDES | 290 | Ali Peek | PEEK | 290 |
| Mac Cuan | CUAN | 290 | RonRon Ritualo | RITUALO | 290 |
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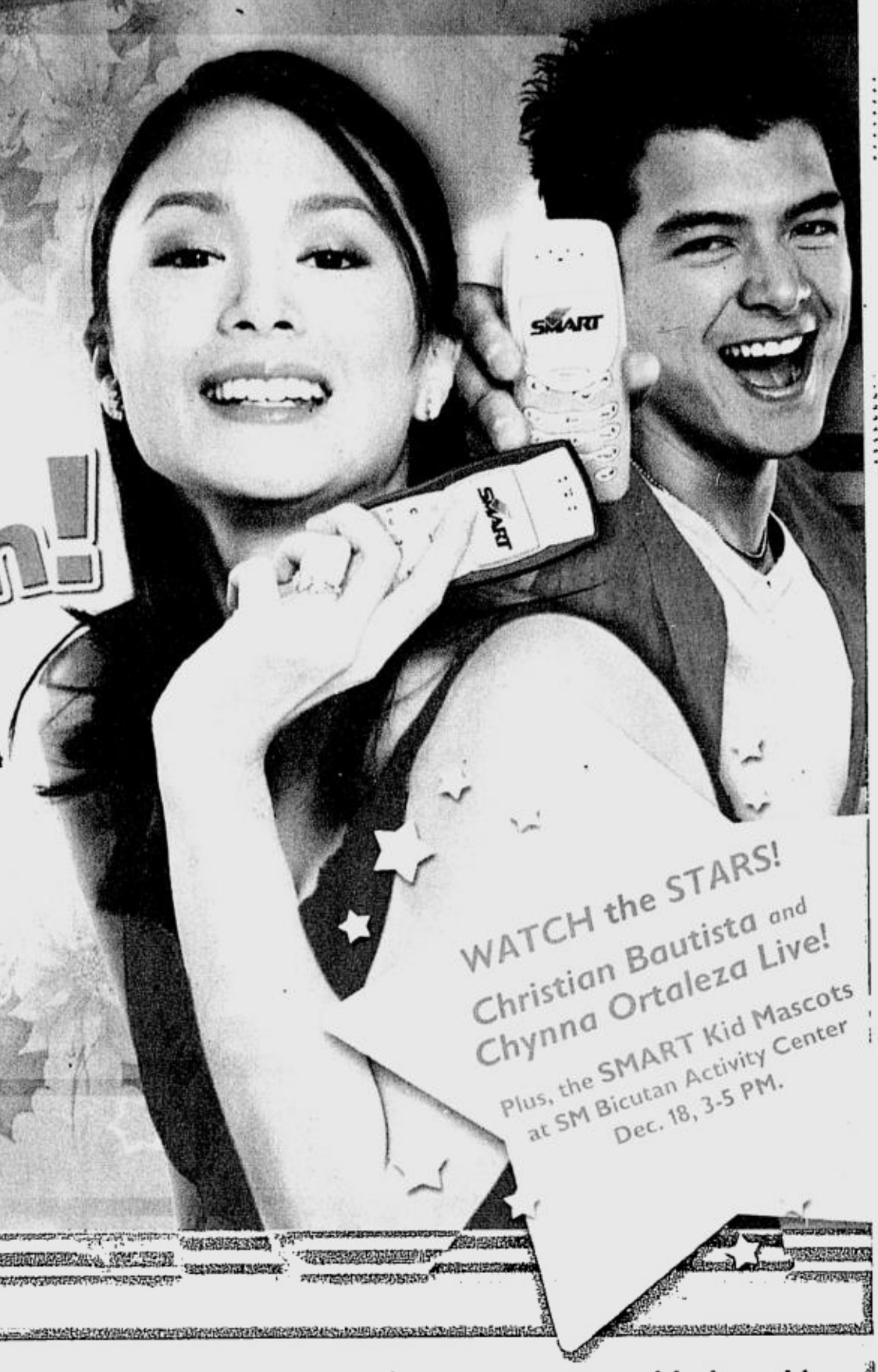


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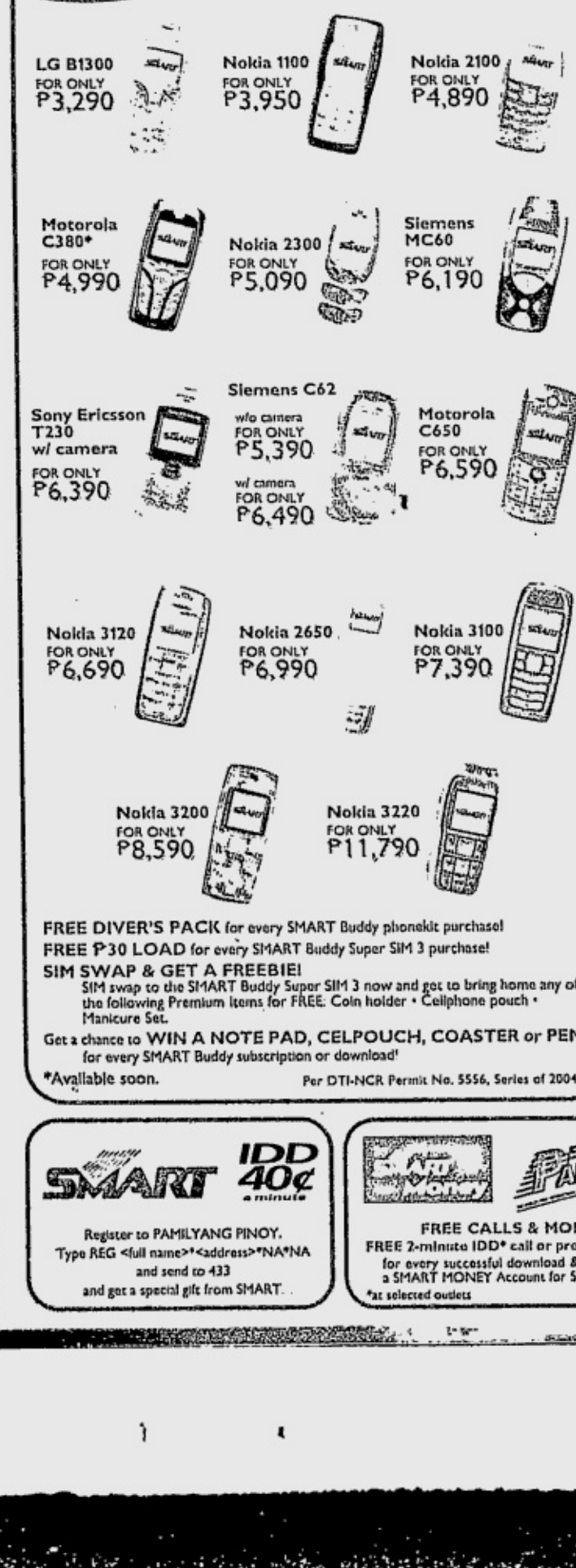


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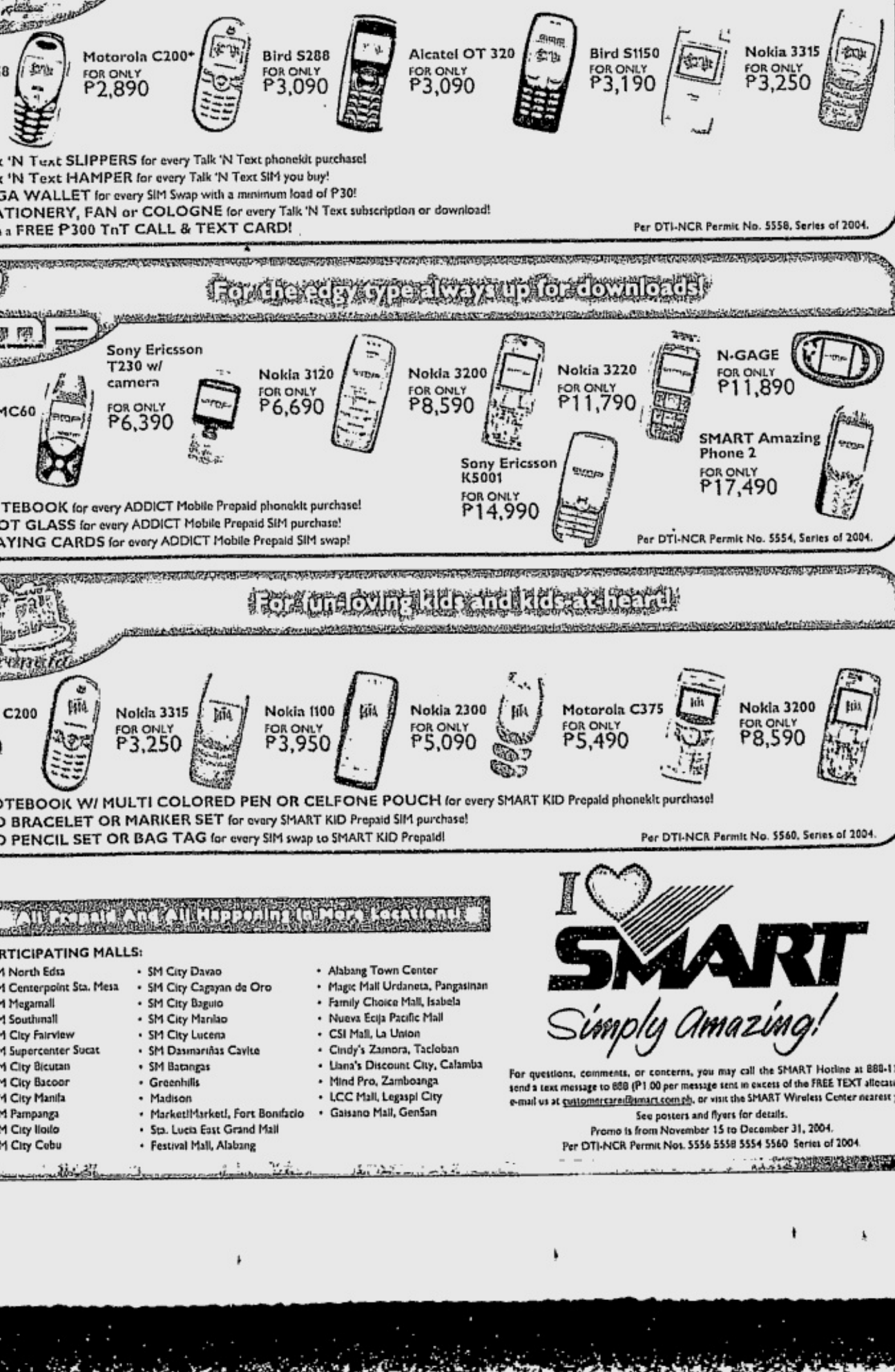


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*Editor* Louie C. Camino
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RUDY ESPERAS

"HOW COULD you say no to someone like him," says former FPJ leading lady Imelda Ilanan.

# How FPJ 'pursued' a pregnant leading lady

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER actress Imelda Ilanan tried to turn down offers to do a film with Fernando Poe Jr. twice in the '70s, but the king of Philippine movies was "so persistent that I couldn't say no."

Imelda, one of the most beautiful faces in the late '60s, said FPJ used to visit her almost every day until she agreed to do the movie with him.

"He told me, 'you're the perfect actress for that role. I want you to do it and no one else.' How could you say no to someone like him?" said Imelda, in the home of her daughter, actress Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, in Quezon City.

Imelda said she did not want to do "Asedillo" in 1971 with FPJ because she had been four months pregnant with her second child, Melvin.

"I didn't want to commit to it because I knew we would be shooting on location and that I would have to travel far," Imelda explained. "*Ayaw niyang pumayag*. He said having a pregnant leading lady would bring him good luck."

"Asedillo," directed by Celso Ad Castillo and now considered one of local cinema's best movies, became a box-office hit in 1971. It also brought FPJ his second best actor award from the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) that same year.

FPJ's first Famas best actor award was for his performance in "Mga Alabok sa Lupa."

## Topless scene

Imelda, who played Poe's third wife in "Asedillo," continued to shoot the movie until she was in her ninth month of pregnancy.

Imelda said she did not want to be part of the other movie, "Bontoc," also with FPJ as her leading man and directed by the late Pablo Santiago, because "I didn't want to go bold."

According to Imelda, she had to shoot two "difficult" scenes in "Bontoc." One scene required her to go topless while running on a beach, while the other required her to fight off a rapist.

Imelda said she was supposed to play FPJ's mother in the movie, which she did not like. "How could I play a mother to him?" she said. "I was just 27 when we did that movie, and Ronnie [FPJ's nickname] was way older than I. But Ronnie said I would only be part of the flashback scenes.

"I'll never forget when he told me, 'if you're an actor, you could do anything,'" Imelda said. "He and *Direk* Pablo did well in convincing me [to do the movie]. Ronnie said we would buy a long wig to cover my breast while I'm doing the scene on the beach. *Direk* Pablo promised that none of my private parts would be exposed during the rape scene.

## No regrets

"I believed them, and the movie turned out well," she added. "I'm glad I did that movie. No regrets."

Imelda's first movie was "Geron Busabos, Batang Quiapo" in 1964, with FPJ's best friend, former President Joseph Estrada, in the title role. Estrada produced the film, written by Augusto Buenaventura and directed by Chat Gallardo, under his JE Productions.

"I played my first lead role in that movie and Ronnie was our guest star," Imelda recalled.

Imelda also worked with FPJ in "Dos Por Dos" and "Bato sa Buhangin." They were last seen together in "Mabuting Kaibigan, Masamang Kaaway" in 1991.

"Ronnie was a very generous man," she said. "He took care of his co-stars very well. Once, I asked for *lechon de leche* and he immediately sent one to the set. But he also made sure that the crew members were provided with the best food. *Pantay-pantay ang* treatment *niya*."

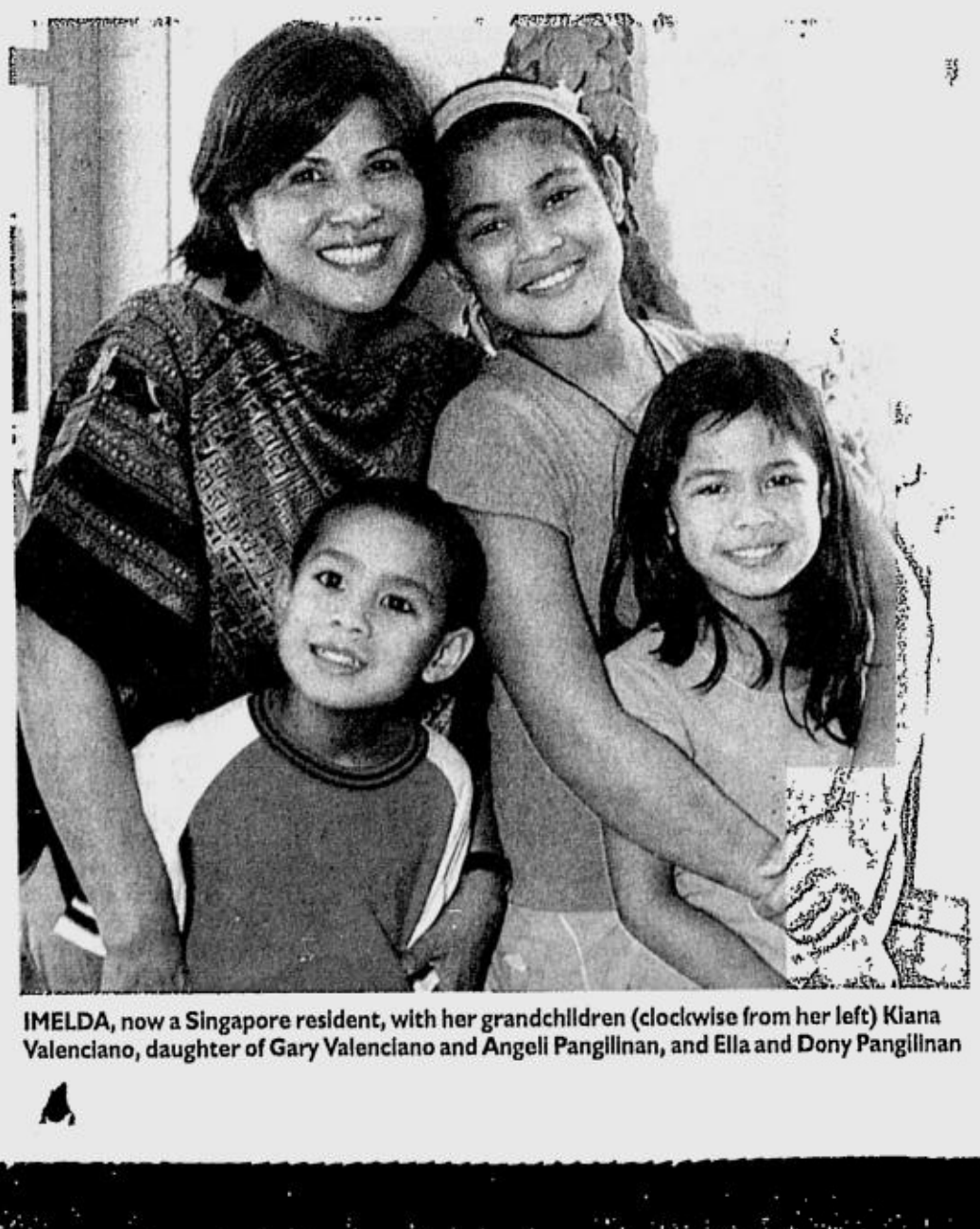
For eight years now, Imelda has been living in Singapore with her husband, Ben Avanceña, and her youngest child, Misha. The former actress arrived in Manila on Dec. 12, the day FPJ was rushed to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, where the actor died on Dec. 14 just one minute after midnight.

Imelda said she received a text message from her daughter Maricel's sister-in-law, Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, informing her of FPJ's condition.

"Angeli was asking that I pray for Ronnie's recovery," Imelda recalled. "I got nervous, but I didn't think it was that serious. I knew Ronnie to be a strong man. I thought he would eventually get better.

FPJ's neurologist, Dr. Abdias Aquino, said FPJ suffered a "severe brain attack" or stroke.

"When I heard of his death, I got depressed," Imelda added. "Ronnie was a true friend to many."



IMELDA, now a Singapore resident, with her grandchildren (clockwise from her left) Kiana Valenciano, daughter of Gary Valenciano and Angeli Pangilinan, and Ella and Dony Pangilinan

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| DEC 16, 04 | - | 22 | 29 | 04 | 20 | 03 | 28 | 24 |
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| NOV 16, 04 | 19 | 22 | 03 | 28 | 12 | 13 | 27 |
| NOV 17, 04 - | 01 | 28 | 27 | 24 | 09 | 30 | 04 |
| NOV 18, 04 | 21 | 09 | 08 | 14 | 27 | 23 | 24 |
| NOV 19, 04 - | 05 | 25 | 23 | 12 | 18 | 06 | 14 |
| NOV 20, 04 | 29 | 23 | 05 | 22 | 02 | 06 | 20 |

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| week 2 | | | | | | | |
| NOV 22, 04 | 15 | 05 | 17 | 10 | 26 | 04 | 24 |
| NOV 23, 04 | 06 | 30 | 25 | 10 | 26 | 04 | 01 |
| NOV 24, 04 | 19 | 23 | 04 | 15 | 28 | 29 | 25 |
| NOV 25, 04 | 20 | 10 | 03 | 15 | 14 | 23 | 01 |
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| week 3 | | | | | | | |
| NOV 29, 04 | 12 | 16 | 30 | 09 | 19 | 01 | 20 |
| NOV 30, 04 - | 12 | 28 | 26 | 19 | 17 | 01 | 06 |
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| DEC 2, 04 - | 16 | 11 | 07 | 03 | 10 | 21 | 02 |
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| DEC 7, 04 | 18 | 14 | 03 | 16 | 13 | 05 | 06 |
| DEC 8, 04 | 09 | 05 | 23 | 12 | 28 | 17 | 13 |
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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1033 s. 2004

# Honor FPJ with a national film archive

VIEW

*Nestor U. Torre*

EVERYBODY'S been writing and talking about FPJ, so we decided not to add to the glut—until a number of people who knew we had some dealings with the movie king asked us to shed light on the significance of his life, as well as his passing. Here's our take on that:

It's understandable why much of the talk about FPJ has harped on his abruptly curtailed political career, his kindness and generosity, all of the people he helped and inspired, etc. Indeed, his political and personal sides play most powerfully to the media and entertainment audience.

There's also been a lot of attention paid to his charismatic screen presence and the compelling power of his heroic film image, which galvanized some people into believing that his cinematic virtue could be transformed into political capital.

We submit, however, that when the plaudits and speculations have faded, **Ronnie Poe**'s enduring contributions to the nation's life will be his director's heart, his abiding love for the Filipino movie industry, his appreciation of the importance of developing new screenwriters, and his pioneering efforts in film preservation.

Some people may disagree, but, FPJ's numerous acting awards notwithstanding, his best suit as a film talent was direction. In his finest movies, paced by the seminal "Tatlong Hari," direk **Ronwaldo Reyes** (his nom du direction) demonstrated a compelling combination of sensitivity, dynamic storytelling skills, and great heart.

FPJ's love for the local film industry stemmed from his celebrated father, who unfortunately had an early demise, which in turn forced Ronnie to assume precocious action stardom, so he could become his family's breadwinner at only 14.

Being compelled to work so soon, Ronnie grew up on movie sets and locations, and thus acquired a new family made up of his fellow movie workers. His father's legacy and this new family orientation made the sensitive young **Ronald Allan** develop strong feelings and loyalties that made him a natural as industry leader in the decades to come.

That's why, after his bid in the national polls had come to naught, we urged him to focus instead on intensifying his leadership of the movie industry, which was in such a slump that it needed his help in a major way. Alas, he wasn't given enough time to do that.

FPJ was very strong on helping new screenwriters and funded workshops to hone their skills. This was important to him because he knew that good storytelling was at the heart of great filmmaking, and he aspired to achieve both.

Finally, and most significantly, FPJ was one of the new Filipino film producers who realized the great importance of film preservation and restoration. Early on, he devised his own techniques to enable his movie company's films to survive the wages of time.

While many other producers allowed prints of their movies to deteriorate, Ronnie kept his eye firmly fixed on the future, and the legacy that his productions

HONOR/ A2-3


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| 2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON | 2 PASIYAM | 2 BIRTH | 6 NATIONAL TREASURE | 2 BAD SANTA 12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:00, 9:05, 11:10 (Guaranteed seats) | 2 PASIYAM |
| 3 BIRTH | 3 HAROLD & KUMAR | 3 BRIDGET JONES: 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 (Guaranteed seats) | 7 BAD SANTA | 3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 (Guaranteed seats) | 3 OUT OF REACH |
| 4 THE POLAR EXPRESS | | 4 2046 | | 4 BIRTH 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 (Guaranteed seats) | 4 TAXI |
| 5 NATIONAL TREASURE | 4 HONEY | GB1 (Greenbelt 1) | | 5 NATIONAL TREASURE 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 (Guaranteed seats) | 5 HIGHWAYMEN |
| | | 1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40 | | | |
| | | 2 BAD SANTA 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45 | | | |

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# Honor FPJ with a national film archive

From page A2-2

would leave to succeeding generations of Filipinos.

People are thinking of ways to honor FPJ now that he's no longer with us. We submit that the best ways to do this are to hold an informed retrospective of his films as writer-director, and to finally create and fund a national archive for film, and name it after him.

The Fernando Poe Jr. National Film Archive of the Philippines—that would be the finest way for us to extol FPJ as he deserves to be remembered and thanked. And, we daresay that, more than any monument or moves like naming him National Artist, he would value that honor best of all.

"HIDE AND SEEK," with Robert de Niro and Dakota Fanning

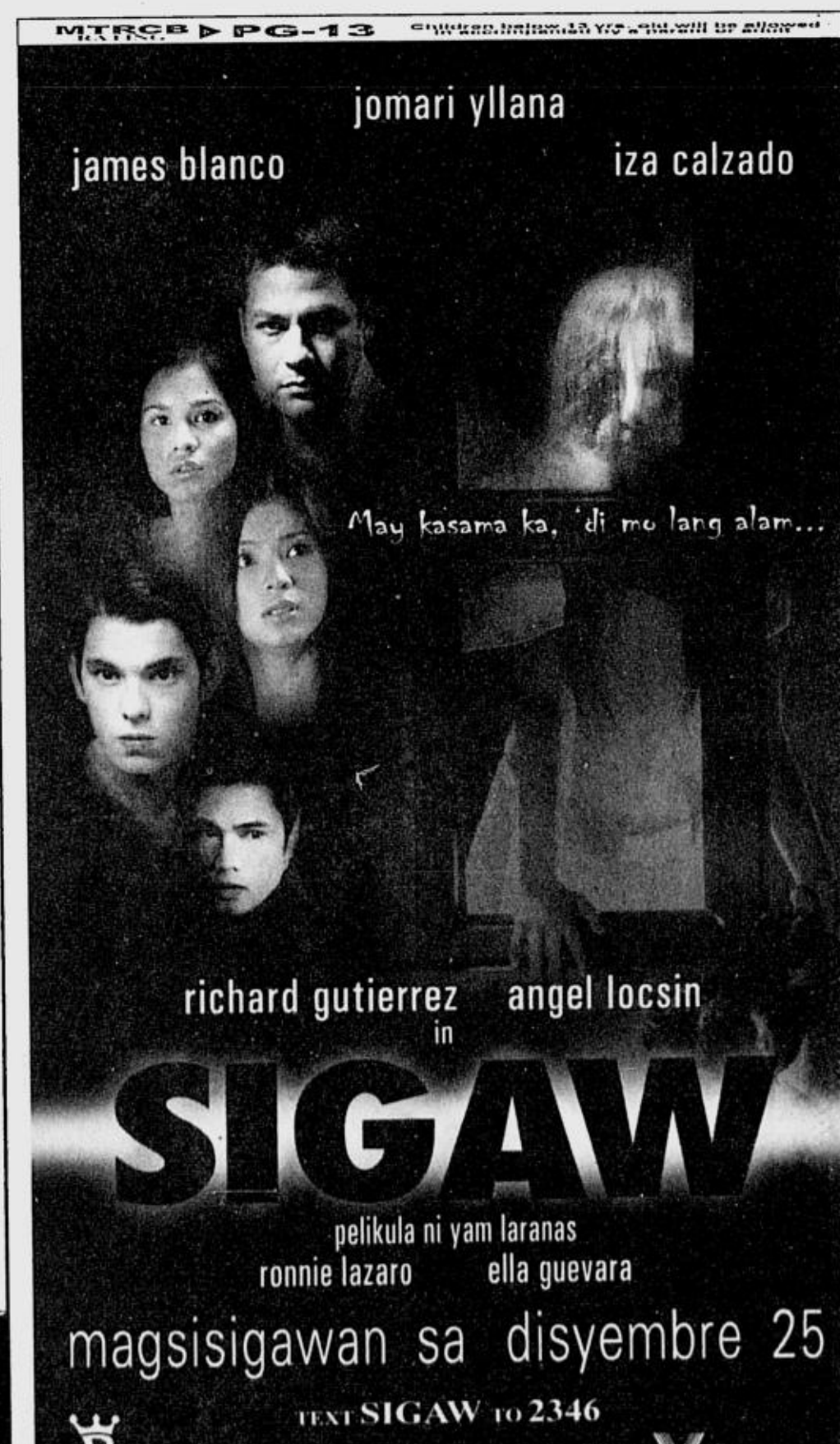
### 'Secret Plot to Kill Hitler'

Discovery Channel announces "Virtual History: The Secret Plot to Kill Hitler," a breakthrough program that hyper-realistically blends famous faces from the past and the faces of actors to dramatize key historical events, film-archive style.

The show airs at 9 p.m. on Dec. 19, with replay at 1 p.m. on Dec. 20.

### 'Hide and Seek'

Robert De Niro stars with Dakota Fanning in the new suspense thriller, "Hide and Seek." De Niro plays Fanning's dad. He discovers that his young daughter has come up with an unexpected and terrifying way to deal with her mother's death—through an imaginary friend named Charlie. The twist comes later, when De Niro realizes that Charlie *isn't* make-believe.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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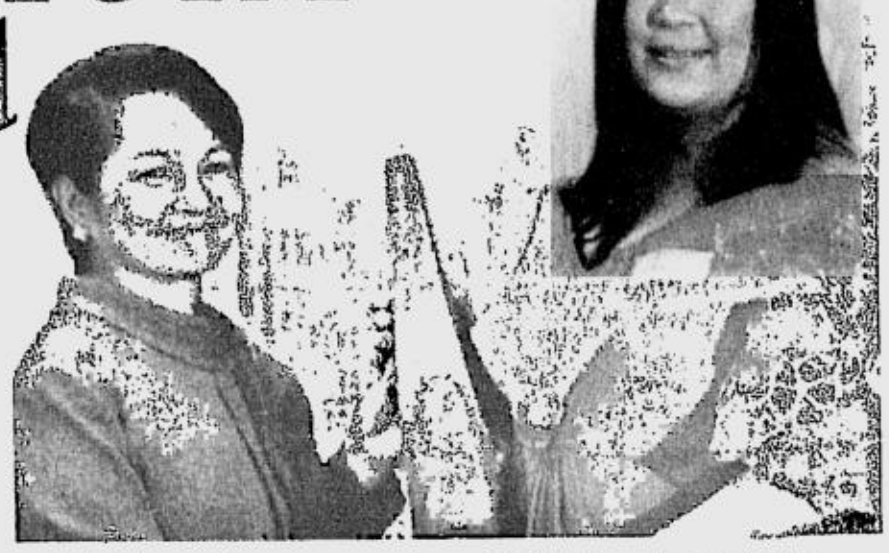
# Sharon first actress to win TOYM award



By Bayani San Diego
*Contributor*

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta and boxer Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao led this year's The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees, which were announced in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Heroes' Hall in Malacañang last Wednesday.

Cuneta is the first movie actress to win the TOYM award.

The TOYM is given annually to "pioneering young Filipinos who manifested selfless dedication to their profession." Aside from entertainment and sports, the other fields represented this year are architecture, plant breeding and genetics, entrepreneurship, broadcast media, health sciences, environmental law, and government service.

Sharon and Manny are joined by the following achievers, all under-41: Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan for government service; Dr. Jose Jonas del Rosario, pediatric cardiology; Marissa La Torre Flores of GMA-7, broadcast management; Glen Gregorio, plant breeding and genetics; Maria Carmela Mortillero Lapitan, medicine, urologic surgery; Gerald Lico, arts and culture, architecture; Maria Paz Luna, environmental law; and Bienvenido Vargas Tantoco III, business entrepreneurship.

## Rebuild the nation

In the collective speech drafted by Dr. Jonas del Rosario, this year's TOYM batch affirmed that the honor represented three things: "recognition, affirmation, and challenge."

The winners hope "to harness our individual talents, network our resources, and work together for a noble cause relevant to the needs of our people."

In light of the recent tragedies in Aurora and Quezon provinces, the winners aspire "to rebuild the nation, (we have) to work for sustained unity—unity among everyone who strives and survives so that brick by brick, soul by soul, person by person, we can regain our pride and patriotism for the simple truth that we do care."

Spearheaded by the Philippine Jaycees, the TOYM Foundation, and the Gerry Roxas Foundation, the TOYM was established 46 years ago. Past TOYM winners included the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., sculptor Napoleon Abueva, painter Jose Joya, architect Leandro Locsin, economist Sixto K. Roxas, literary man Emmanuel Torres, musician Oscar Yatco, filmmaker Lino Brocka, journalist Jose Burgos Jr., and prizefighter Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

Before being named to the TOYM honor roll, the Megastar and the Pacman clinched international victories.

The bemedalled athlete just last week knocked out former world title-holder Fahsan Por Thawatchai of Thailand.

## Giving back

The award-winning singer-actress won the Best Actress trophy at the 31st International Festival of Independent Film in Brussels, Belgium, for her crackerjack performance in "Crying Ladies," directed by Mark Meily.

As the first movie actress to win the TOYM, Cuneta joins previous awardees from the entertainment world: composer Ryan Cayabyab, hitmaker and singer Jose Mari Chan, pop singer and Cuneta's brother-in-law Gary Valenciano, theater actress Lea Salonga, and filmmaker Carlitos Siguion-Reyna.

Cuneta is extremely "thankful for and is inspired by" her latest award. She says the TOYM will encourage her further, push her to strive harder.

"It's a constant struggle," she admits, "if not to achieve a certain level of excellence, at least to maintain the passion for the things that you love to do. It is not just about taking, but also about giving back whatever I can."

Just like her Brussels trophy, she dedicates her TOYM triumph "to my country and the movie industry which I both love deeply."

Cuneta, who was joined by her husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan at the Malacañang awards ceremony, looks at her TOYM trophy as a symbol of hope, personally and professionally.

"The year has been filled with a lot of bad news, but as I always say, it's important to be always hopeful, most especially in a time of sadness, so that you could give hope to your co-workers, to your industry, and to yourself. Without hope, you cannot go on. That is why I am so grateful for this award."

She shares her TOYM triumph with her colleagues in the entertainment industry, who are mourning the loss of action king Fernando Poe Jr.

"This is happening in a time of grief, in the midst of such a big loss, with FPJ having passed on," she says. "At first, I was afraid that I was too depressed to attend the awarding. But I said a prayer and, surprisingly, on the day itself, I felt better than I did the day before (when he died).

"We all need a little good news, a little hope, a little happiness. That's why when it comes our way, we have to embrace it. We have to acknowledge it. We have to be grateful.

"Life has to go on," she adds. "I saw *Tita* Susan [Roces, FPJ's widow] on television saying she has chosen to be happy, that it is a choice."

'We all need a little good news, a little hope, a little happiness. That's why when it comes our way, we have to embrace it. We have to acknowledge it. We have to be grateful'

FOR COUNTRY and industry. The Megastar receives her award from President Macapagal-Arroyo
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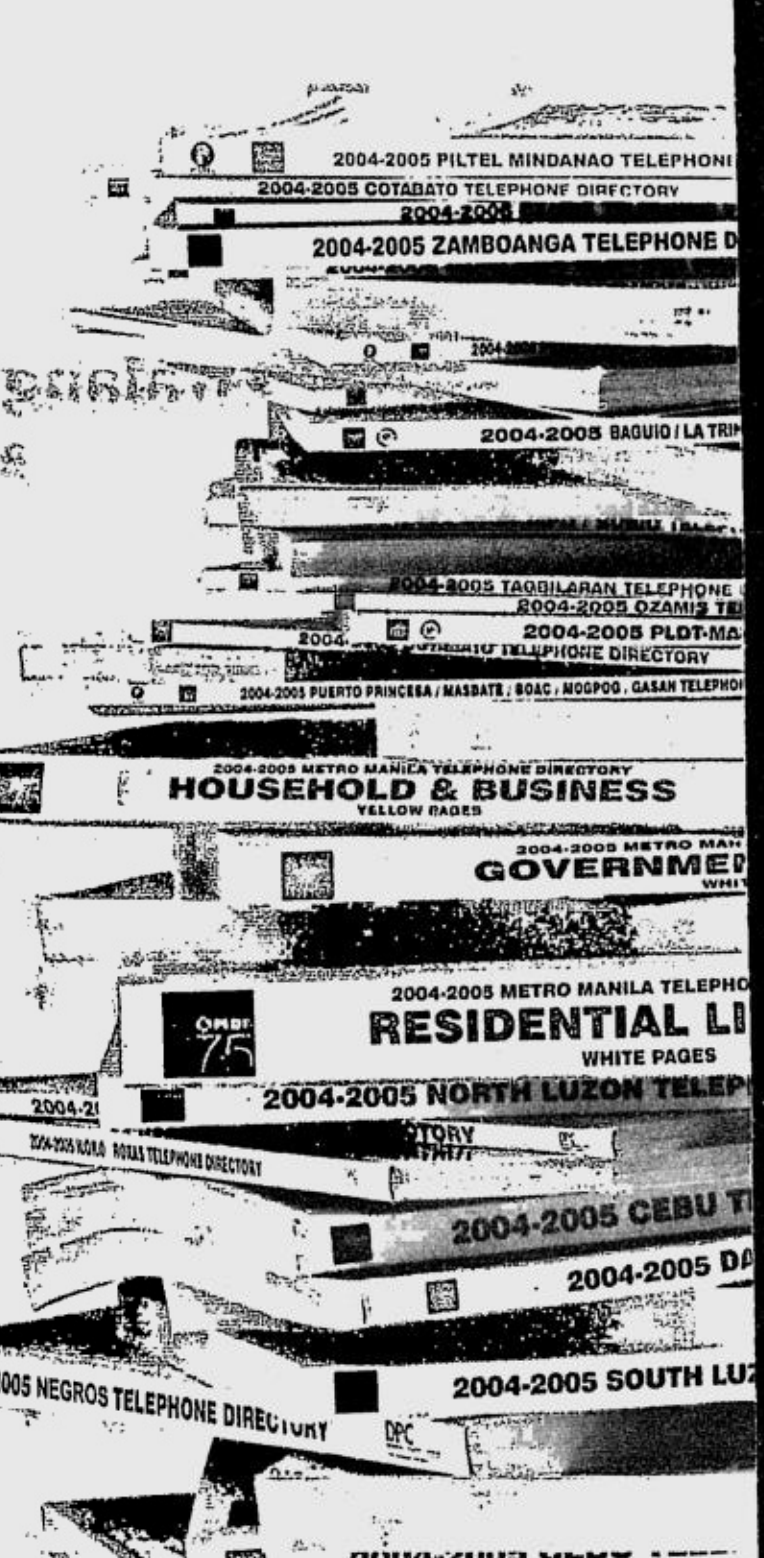


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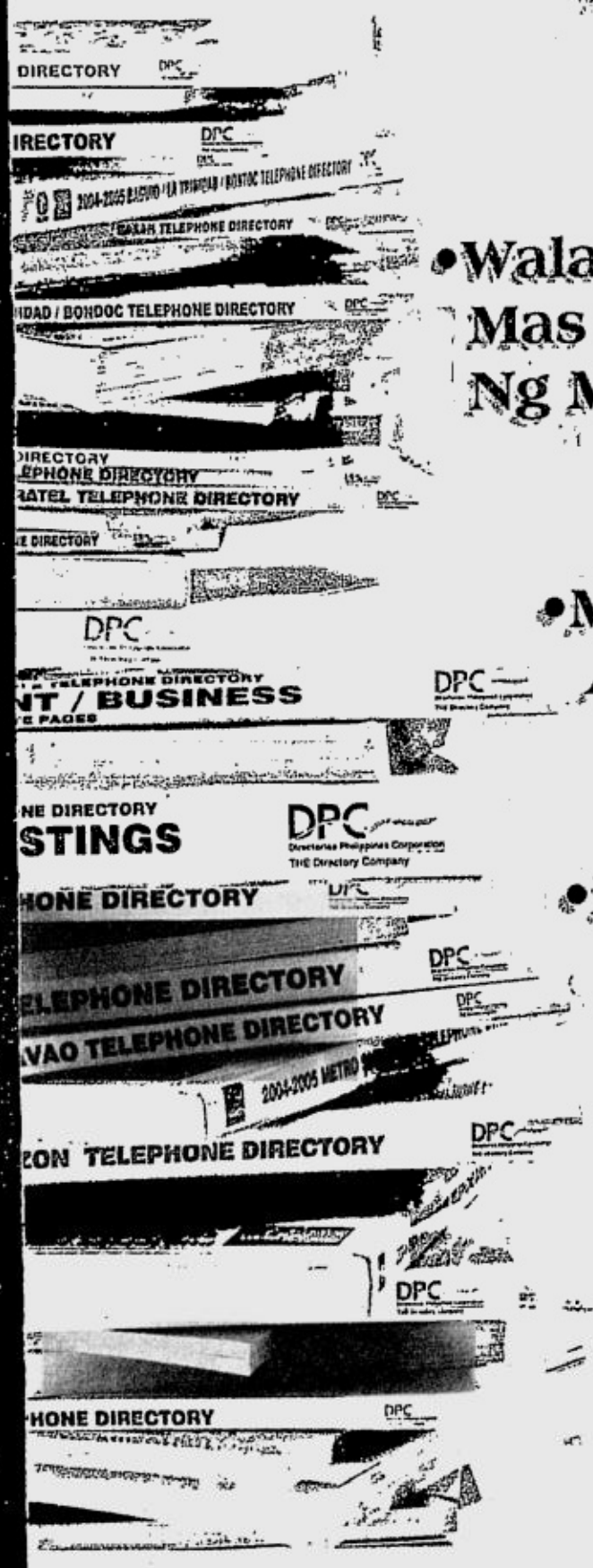


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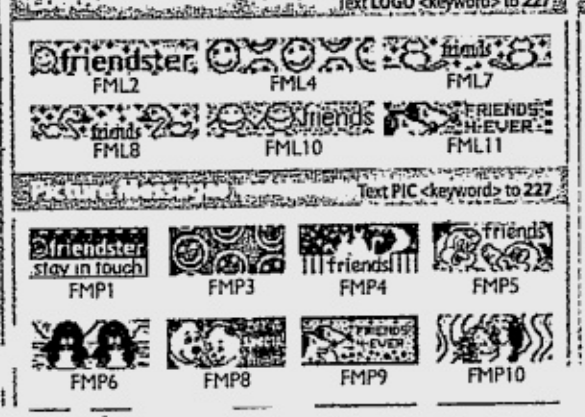


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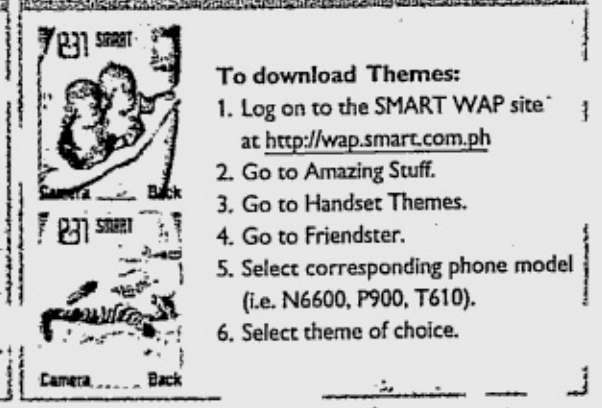

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# Caridad Sanchez loses a friend and a hero

By Cathy S. Babao
*Contributor*

IN A sense, FPJ saved my mother from a broken heart and gave her the courage to come to Manila, where she found her fortune.

He was, just like his movie persona, a hero in her eyes and one of her most treasured and dearest friends. Now that he is gone, she feels like one of her wings has just been broken.

My mother is the actress Caridad Sanchez. Their friendship spanned almost five decades, having first met in 1956. Mom had just begun her career as an actress in Cebu. He was young and dashing, she remembers. After making "Anak ni Palaris," he had gone to Cebu to oversee the family's studio equipment business. They hit it off right away. In time, he became her protector.

Mom recalls how her boyfriend at the time slapped her during an argument. When she told Ronnie about it, he sought the abuser and punched the living daylights out of him. "*Eh duwag naman pala yang* boyfriend *mo* (Your boyfriend is a coward)," he told mom afterwards.

A few months later, he had to begin work on the film, "Lo-Waist Gang." Mom recalls how bad she felt that he was leaving Cebu. Ronnie promised he would stay in touch, and assured her that she should call him if she was ever in Manila. "*Hanapin mo ako* (Look for me)," he said.

## Hello, old friend

In 1958, she followed the boyfriend to Manila—yes, the same one FPJ had punished earlier—but was devastated when he told her to return to Cebu because she had no future in the big city. Crying her heart out, she remembered her old friend and called Premiere, his home studio. He immediately recognized her voice and asked where she was. "*Hintayin mo ako diyan*," he said.

> The actress and FPJ were such good friends they had a 'theme song'

By 5 p.m. he was at her doorstep. They went out that evening and walked by the Luneta seawall with her cousin as chaperone. "He had no money back then, so we just ate peanuts and *balut*," mom says. "But he stopped me from going back to Cebu." He promised to help her. But before he could, mom was discovered by LVN.

A year later, they bumped into each other during a fashion show staged by the big three production houses—LVN, Sampaguita and Premiere. He told her he was very happy that she was doing well in her career.

Another year passed and, one night, he called her at around 11 p.m. My mom was already going out with my dad. She told him gently, "Ron, *may* boyfriend *na ako* (I have a new boyfriend)." He asked who the boyfriend was, and when she told him it was a certain Leiutenant Babao, he wished her well and said goodbye.

## Spy on him?

In the early '60s when she was with LVN she became very close friends with Charito Solis, who was FPJ's girlfriend at the time. Once Solis asked her to spy on him when he went to one of the clubs on Roxas Boulevard. Parked some distance from where Solis suspected him to be, she asked mom to check who his companions were.

"I walked some distance from Chato but didn't go into the club because I also didn't want Ronnie to see me spying on him," mom says. "So I just told her that yes, he was there drinking with some friends."

Mom says that through the years prior to his marriage to Susan Roces, he told her of all his girlfriends and, more often that not, she gave her two cents worth about the current one. When he fell in love with Susan, mom couldn't find anything negative to say. She felt Susan would be "very good" for Ronnie, she says.

The film "Bandana" by Lea Productions, which was mom's home studio in the late 1960s, was partly shot in our White Plains home. The film starred Susan Roces. To this day, I remember how lovely and regal she looked. During breaks, she would rest in my parents' bedroom, and mom and she would exchange stories. Soon after, on Christmas Day 1968, Susan and Ronnie got married in church.

## Theme song

In 1970, mom made the film "Santiago," where Ronnie was the leading man. One night after a particularly long shooting day and he was winding down with friends on the set, he serenaded my mom with the Visayan song "Matud Nila." It was a running gag between them as the years and their unique friendship grew, that "Matud Nila" was their "theme song" because it reminded them of their younger days in Cebu when they first became good friends.

They did not have much communication throughout that decade, but they would often see each other during show business events, such as parties and award nights. When my dad died in 1981, his wake was held in the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, not very far from where Ronnie lived. He sent over a huge wreath.

After that, mom says, stories of their early friendship began to circulate. She was surprised that many people had found out about their special bond. She had deliberately kept quiet about that because she did not want people to think she was riding on his popularity.

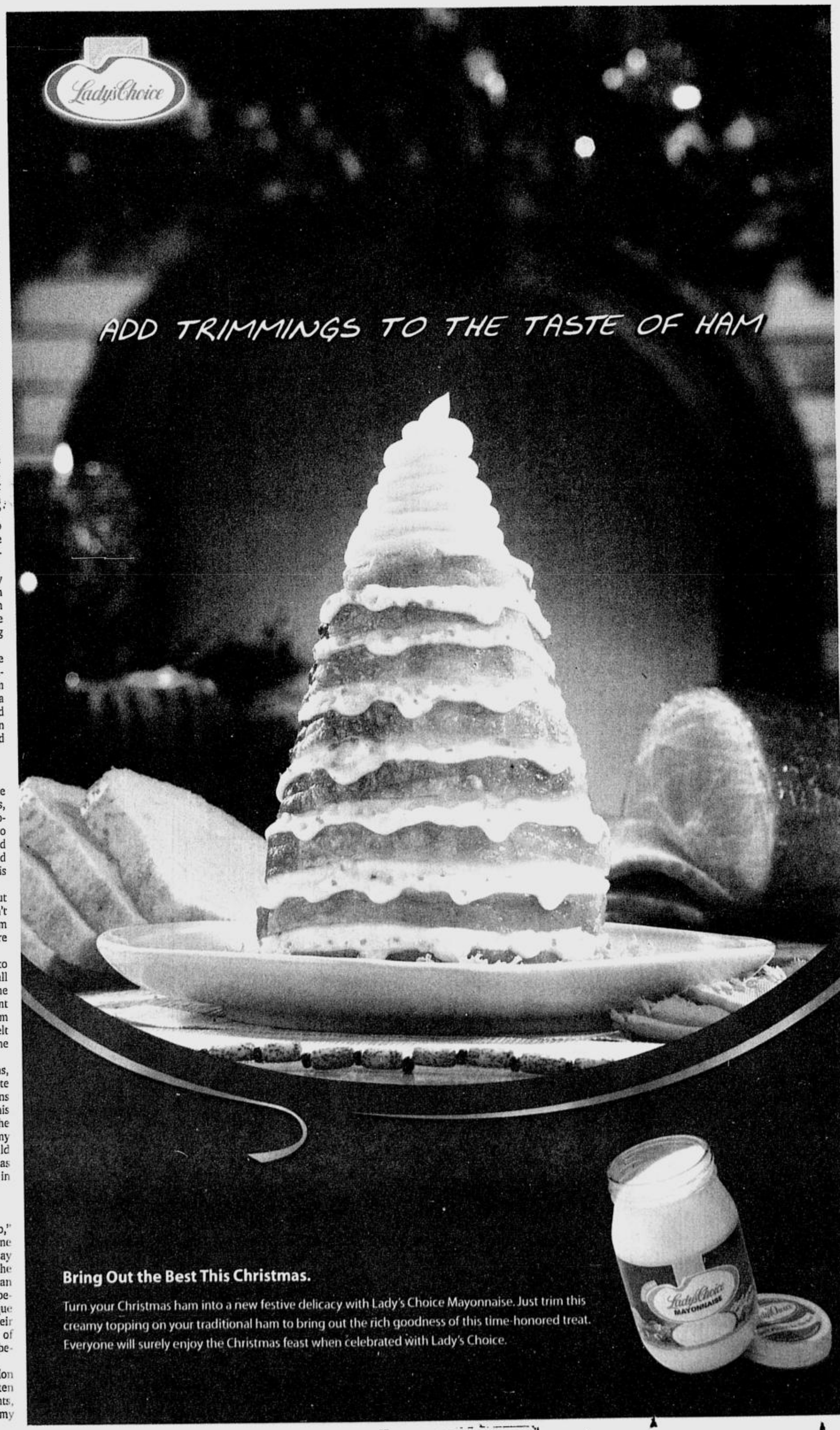
## Ninong Ronnie

When I got married in 1990, I specifically asked my mom to get FPJ for my *ninong* (main sponsor). I admired him both as an actor and as a human being. He immediately agreed. His presence on my wedding day made the event all the more special. Mom says she gave him specific instructions to come in a *barong*, because he looked more dashing in such an attire rather than in a suit. When he arrived, he took aside my mom and, like a young man, asked, "*O ayan, nakabarong ako. 'Di ba ang guapo* (Here I am in a barong. Don't I look handsome)?" They both laughed.

In 1994 she had the privilege of working with him on the film "Butas ng Karayom," which he starred in and directed. They were on location in Mariveles for two straight months. There, mom says, their friendship grew even stronger. From then on, she be-

CARIDAD/ A4-2

AUTHOR'S MOM reunited with her hero in the November wake of former actress Norma Blancaflor.

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# Invitation to Jacko 'crime scene'

LOS ANGELES—Michael Jackson is throwing the gates of his Neverland Valley Ranch, the place where he is accused of molesting a young boy, open to a group of visitors on Friday.

Jackson spokeswoman Raymone Bain said the pop music star had invited a group of people to visit the fairy-tale ranch.

The spokeswoman declined to identify the group but said such invitations were regularly extended to various groups, including church members.

She said a member of his entourage had incorrectly described the event as a holiday party for groups of children.

It was not clear whether Jackson, 46, would be attending.

The entertainer is free on bail ahead of trial scheduled for late January on a 10-count indictment of child molestation.

Jackson has pleaded innocent.

Neverland, a sprawling estate in the foothills of Santa Barbara, California, has played a key role in the case against Jackson. Prosecutors allege it was there that, almost two years ago, Jackson plied a boy with alcohol, engaged in "lewd acts" with him, then conspired with his staff to cover up his misdeeds.

Another pretrial hearing in the case is set for Monday when Jackson's defense team will seek again to have the charges dismissed.

Jackson has frequently opened his home to children. Video footage shot for a television documentary broadcast in 2003 showed children playing on a miniature train ride and other theme park style rides in the grounds, which also house a small zoo.

Jackson said last year he no longer considers Neverland his home after at least two extensive police raids searching for evidence against him. *Reuters*

# Caridad Sanchez loses a friend and a hero

From page A4-1

came one of the very few people he trusted with his thoughts and secrets. It was also during the making of that film that mom realized how Ronnie had treasured their friendship and how vivid the memories of their first meeting in Cebu were to him.

After one particularly emotional scene, she remembers, he teased her, "'Ring, *parang* acting '56 yun ah ... (that was like acting circa '56)" Not getting the joke, mom yelled back at him, "*Hoy, magaling akong artista, ha* (I'm a good actress)!" He stood there quite stunned, not saying a word. Realizing her folly, my mom wanted to kick herself. But being Leoborn (like he was), she didn't apologize. Much later, they managed to laugh off the incident.

## 'Is Carrie there?'

When the filming of "Butas..." was over, Ronnie would call my mom every now and then. The *yaya* at home would know it was Mr. Poe, because he liked to humor them by speaking in a strange phone voice. "*Nandyan ba si* Carrie (Is Carrie there)?" he would ask. Only one person called my mom Carrie. Their friendship was so unique and mom was so attuned to him, that she could tell by the way he addressed her if there was a problem, if he wanted to ask her to do something, or if he simply wanted to chat.

"*Nag-iiba ang tono ng tawag niya sa pangalan ko* (His tone would change)," she says.

Unknown to many, and for all that macho image, FPJ had a fondness for the cartoon character Tweety. Mom once gave him a jogging outfit for his birthday with a Tweety insignia. He was so happy, his good friend Rudy Meyer told us, that Ronnie said "Wow!" five times. "He was really, basically, a simple man, a child inside," mom says.

He was also a friend who gave of his time, no matter how busy he was. When my son Migi died in 1998, FPJ showed up on the first night of the wake. He arrived at about 10 p.m. and, despite a very busy schedule, stayed until 4 a.m. His generous gift to our family became part of the initial fund for Migi's Corner, play corners for indigent, sick children that I put up in government hospitals.

## Not a doctor

Three years ago, my mom was afflicted with Bell's palsy. FPJ was so upset when he found about it much later, after she had already healed. He called her and, in an irate tone that hardly concealed his concern, he asked why she had not told him earlier.

"*Bakit, doktor ka ba* (What for, are you a doctor)?" my mom replied. He was momentarily taken aback, but quickly recovered, laughing. "*Maldita ka talaga* (You are incorrigible)," he teased her.

Just before he decided to run in the May elections, he called my mom as usual, and asked what she thought. She says: "I told him that the movie industry and everyone in it loved him dearly and held him in high esteem. I was very afraid that if he entered politics they would be relentless in their pursuit to tear him apart and bring him down. I said politics was alien territory, and I did not want him to be hurt."

## Last time together

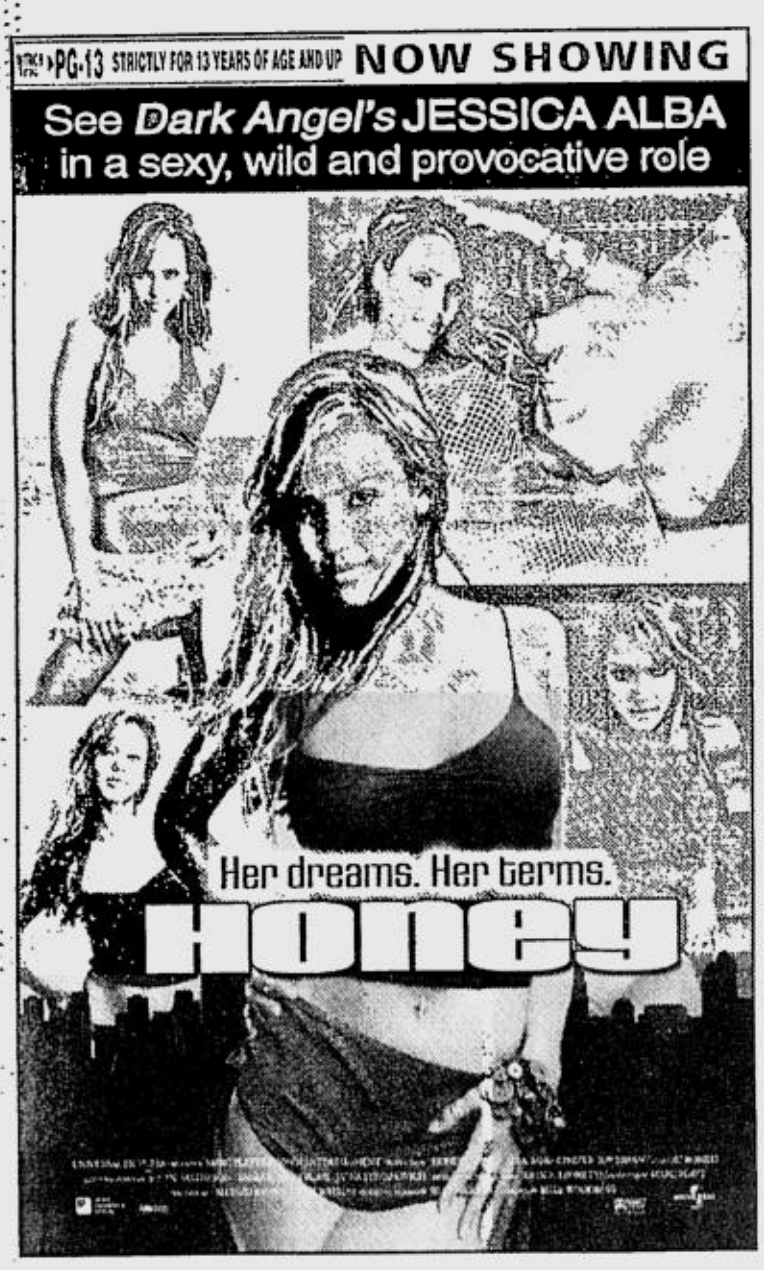
During the campaign she kept away and, instead, silently did her part. They did not have much opportunity to speak this year because of his hectic schedule.

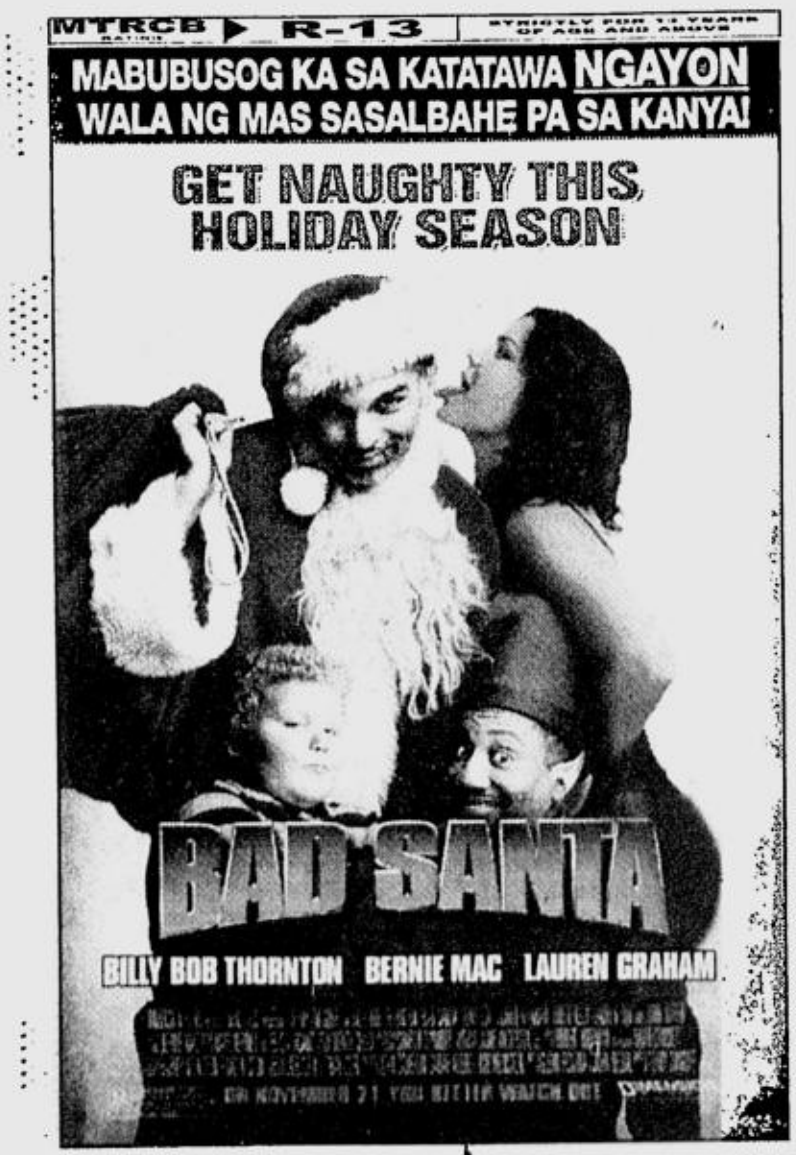
A month ago, during Norma Blancaflor's wake, was the last time they spent some time together. After months of not seeing each other and communicating, FPJ was so happy to see my mom, he gave her a tight hug. Mom felt he wanted to chat all the way until morning but she was a little weary and had to excuse herself.

"In my heart I know he was going to tell me all about the campaign and maybe what he felt about that whole episode in his life," she now says. "I guess now that is the one regret I have, I wish I had stayed that night and listened."

On the night he passed away, mom was in the corridor of the ICU at St. Luke's Medical Center. She was among the very first people who learned of the sad news.

"Da King," her friend and hero, has gone back Home.






Golden Globes 2005
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As Anna, Kidman achieves a breathtaking emotional transparency to portray an intelligent woman who discovers another side of herself in the face of a bizarre, yet tantalizing possibility. A film about love, mortality and the unknown.

BIRTH is still showing in Manila theaters.

ADVT

# Iza's season

By Larry Leviste
*Contributor*

REGATTA spokesperson

CHRISTMAS is in her eyes.

For Iza Calzado, actress and star of GMA Network's recently concluded telenovela "Te Amo," this is the season for God's generosity and dressing up. Being the image model for clothing brand Regatta and the fragrance face for Avon, she can indulge in Yuletide goings-on, in style. For its holiday look, Regatta designer Joey Samson has come up with trendy yet wearable outfits.

Iza has three upcoming movies—"Sigaw," "Pinoy Blonde" and "Guardia de Honor."

"Even when I was a kid, my dad [director and choreographer Lito Calzado] and I would buy items from Regatta," says Iza. "So when they asked me to be the brand spokesperson, I didn't hesitate. I like the clothes and I wear them everyday because of the sewing, the comfort and the stylish concerns. Let's say Regatta is weekday wear with a weekend attitude."

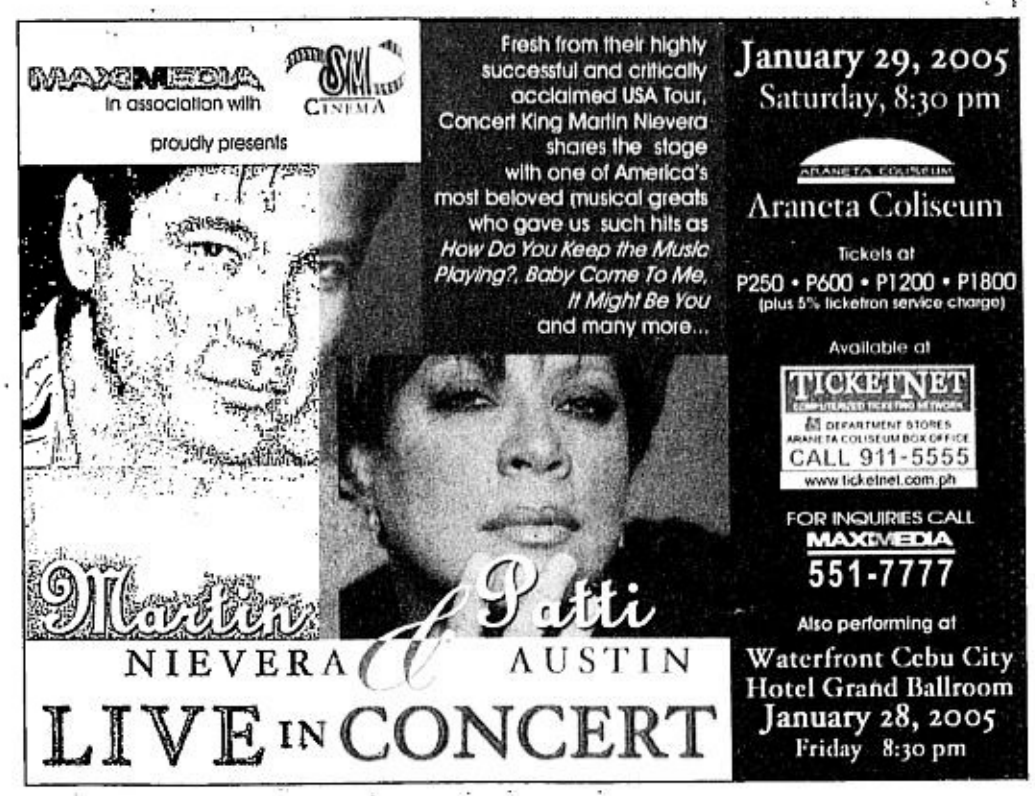
Iza recently gave a talk at her alma mater, Miriam College. "I told one of the teachers, when I was in high school I never imagined talking about God in front of students. I wasn't even paying attention during Mass. At that time, I wasn't a firm believer in God.

"But as I was going into show biz, I started going to Mass and actually listening to the Gospel. Suddenly my life began to change very fast."

The 22-year-old says, "I really got a lucky break and that's why I have to take care of my career really well. I got to where I am a lot faster and easier than a lot of my peers. God has been so good to me so I am working for His glory."

For gift suggestions or stocking stuffers from Regatta, Iza suggests, "The logo tees, definitely. Also the baby tees in yummy colors and stripes. Very reinvented preppy. Of course, the boxer shorts in whimsical prints and the chiffon tops to conceal holiday bingeing."

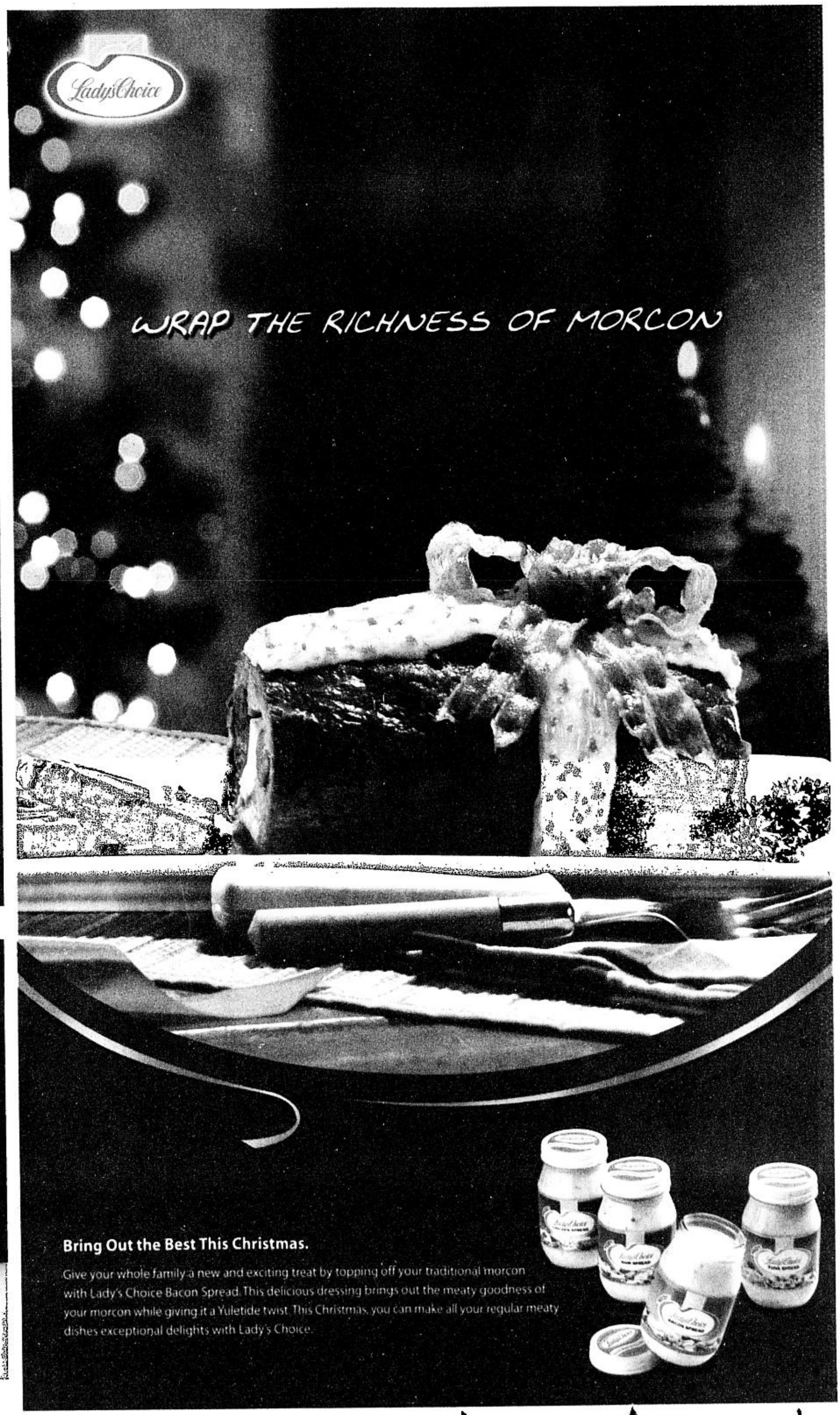
PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
STYLED BY MIA DRAGON-FLOIRENDO
MAKE-UP BY MIKE LARIOSA



FLOWER POWER in a strapless denim dress with a huge applique

POSE THAT REFRESHES in a knitted top

COLD SHOULDER bared in Regatta's holiday separates



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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# FPJ generosity not surprising, says daughter

By Marinel R. Cruz

FERNANDO Poe Jr.'s daughter would like to do what her father had been doing to help people, even total strangers and often anonymously.

"Up to now, people would come up to me and say, 'Your daddy built a *kapilya* [chapel] in our town,' or 'Your dad sent me to school,' or 'Your dad paid for my mother's medical bills when she was hospitalized," said Mary Grace Llamanzares. "I wasn't surprised when I heard them say these. But I was surprised to hear that some of these things happened only very recently, like a few years before the [latest presidential election]."

Mary Grace said she hoped to continue what he did for people. "But to be honest, I cannot begin to imagine how I could do justice to it. I feel like my experience and training are not enough.

"He learned from life," she said at her father's wake at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City last Wednesday night. "It had been trial and error for him. He made errors but his triumphs made up for his errors.

"I have so many good memories of my father, that's what I feel so fortunate about," she added. "The most vivid memory right now is our last conversation. He seemed so in a hurry. He had so many things to do for the Christmas party he had been arranging, and for his films, which he was compiling. He was talking about that."

FPJ suffered a stroke around midnight on Dec. 12 and was taken to St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, where he died almost two days later.

## Not in a joking mood

FPJ was not his usual self when he attended the birthday party last month of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, his overall campaign manager during last May's presidential election, according to singer Rico J. Puno, who was also at the wake Wednesday night.

"He was pale, and he wasn't wearing his eyeglasses," Rico told INQUIRER Entertainment.

"Whenever Ronnie [Poe's nickname] saw me, he would playfully punch me in the stomach," Rico recalled. "That night, he wasn't like that at all. I noticed that he was not his usual self.

"He was wearing clothes similar to what he's wearing now," Rico added. "I will never forget that night [of Binay's birthday] because that was the first time I saw him in a coat and tie."

Like many of the late actor's supporters, Rico said it was possi-

FPJ GENEROSITY/ A5-3

"I DON'T know how I can do it justice," says Mary Grace Llamanzares.

"HE OFFERED to help me," recalls Mother Lily

GOODBYE, HERO, says actress Daria Ramirez with a sad wave of a wavering hand.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Sunday, December 19, 2004

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| HBO | | | | Cheats (4.15 PM) | | | Frances (5.45 PM) | | | | | The Matrix Reloaded | | | | Tears Of The Sun (10.15PM) | | | |
| Star Movies | Unfaithful (2.45 PM) | | | | The Ticket (4.45 PM) | The Sixth Man (5.15 PM) | | | | The Recruit (7.05 PM) | | | | Solaris | | | The Real McCoy | | |
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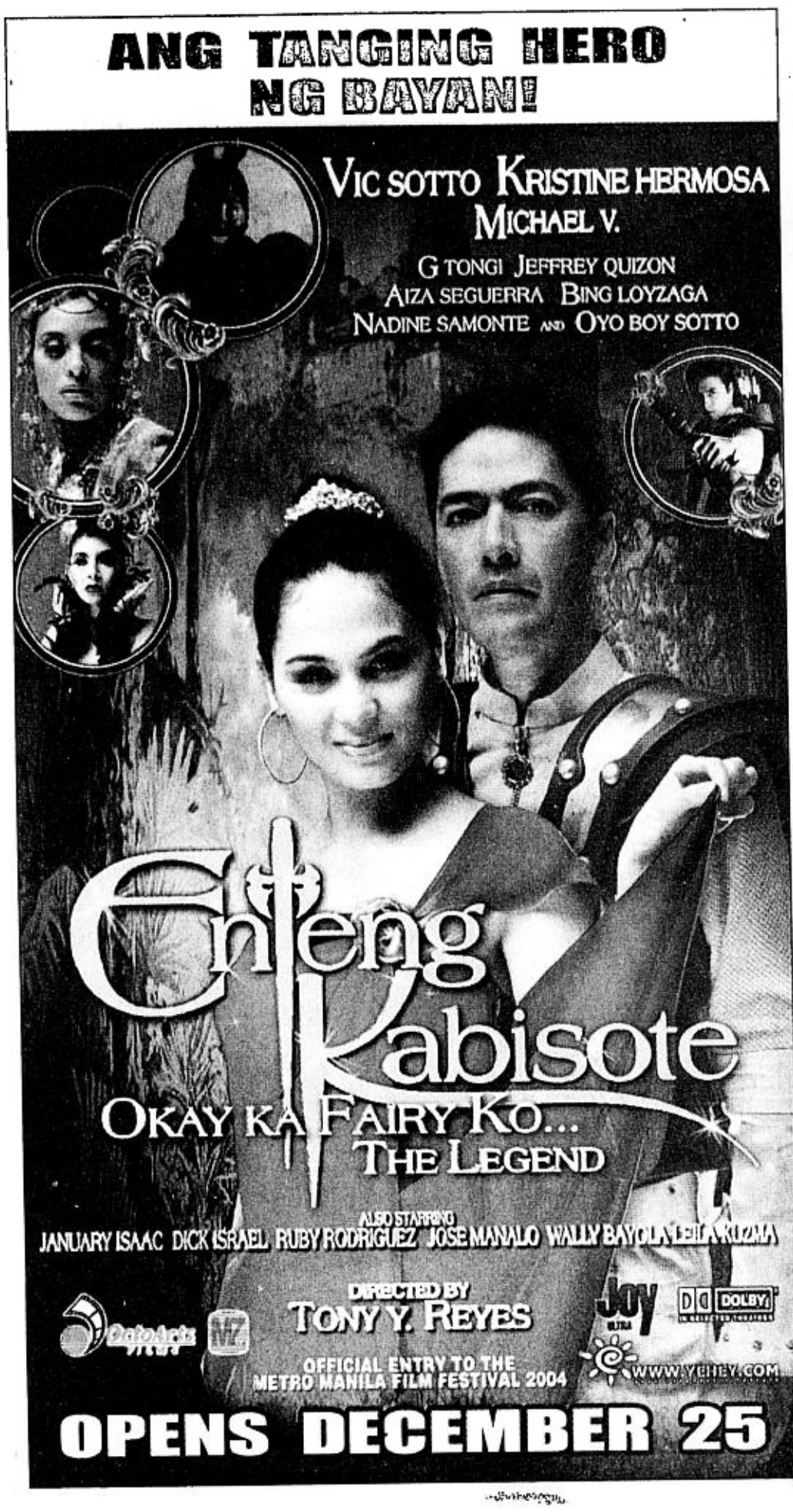



# To FPJ, a personal farewell

**YES! MAGAZINE pays tribute to FPJ in a special issue that will appear with its regular January issue. Out Dec. 20, the tribute profiles the man as star and person, and tells both the good and the damning stories, about a man who, on the balance, lived the life of a good man.**

JUICE

*Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon*

THESE past days, I'd been thinking to myself: What was it about FPJ? Why did I like the man?

I had heard about all the macho moments in the past. I knew about the bursts of bullheadedness during the presidential campaign, and had been incensed by the incident with reporter **Sandra Aguinaldo**. That the show-biz press would not touch these, out of respect or out of self-preservation, did not make me a fan.

FPJ is the one sacred cow of the industry—and I've never been comfortable around sacred cows.

Everyone bowed to him. *He* alone chose when *he* allowed you into his circle. He set the terms of engagement, and woe unto those who were aggressive and thought they could make a friendship happen.

Personally, I'd always thought that strange. Friendship? I mean, how? Yours can only be unequal: He dictates, you defer; he dispenses, you receive; he is king, you are subject.

Between you, there is far too much protocol to make friendship happen.

Apart from that, I've always thought it dangerous to get too chummy with the people I wrote about. One's judgment can be impaired by gestures of niceness; one's sense of fairness, compromised by acts of coldness.

Those, I've always known to be the operative rules of my trade. And the entertainment beat is crazy precisely because it doesn't care about rules! In fact, it makes its own.

## FPJ stories

In that setting, I did not think I would like FPJ. But I did, I truly did.

Not just *polite* liked, or *professional* liked—but liked, like I would a nice person.

I did not ever just plop on the chair next to his unless he invited me, I never simply picked up the phone to call him. And although he wanted to know why I wasn't in his house last October, that was only because YES!, the magazine I'm editor of, was doing a shoot of his niece Sheryl there, and he didn't know any of the people I'd sent over. Of course, I rushed over.

So, no, we were not close. We were not even what I would call *friends*.

But I liked his old-school manner.

I liked it that he would come to the gate of his home to usher a guest in. Liked it that he would not ask for his favored imported three-in-one coffee if the host had something already prepared. Liked it that he did not sit down to eat until everybody had been served.

Liked it that he did not complain of the heat, did not brag about his cars, did not say anything mean about anybody. Liked it that, in a gathering, he spread himself around, hopping from table to table, giving everyone the thing they were waiting for: a chance to say they chatted with Da King.

And I liked his stories.

You know how celebrities tend to talk about themselves all the time? Well, FPJ told his stories better than that. And the times they were about him, they were all so self-deprecating.

Like his story about his biggest box-office flop. "*Walang tatalo sa* flop *namin ni* Erap. *Wala talaga*!" he once said to a group of reporters. Then he went on to tell the story about the miserable film he and his buddy Erap shot in the States, where nothing was happening, "*na wala kaming ginawa ni* Erap *kundi maglakad*." I remember asking, "So what was the story about?" He looked at me, paused for dramatic effect, then said, "*E ni hindi ko nga rin alam, e*."

Otherwise, he liked telling stories about everyone else, like **Amay Bisaya**.

We were at the Manila Hotel then, on the day he announced his candidacy. And he and **Tito Sotto** had taken pains not to mix show biz into this political event. But, just as they surveyed the lobby, who should they spot but Amay! Jostling for center space! FPJ was chuckling hard.

I asked why. But he couldn't stop chuckling, so it was Tito Sotto who explained that Amay was this okay guy who, however, had to be in the center of the action all the time! Now the thought of Amay wreaking havoc on his plan to make his Manila Hotel announcement a solemn, even sacred, one was killing FPJ, and just before the wire agencies barged in, he had been guffawing about it.

Footnote: Tito sent some people to move Amay safely out of the way.

## FPJ, a good man

See, FPJ was a *padrino*.

But as *padrinos* go, he took care of everybody, even those who could not tell they were a second away from ruining his best-laid plans.

It probably wasn't easy being him.

He never eliminated hangers-on, even if they were of no use to him in the past, were in the present to free-load, or had no prospects of being of use in the future. The circle that depended on him just kept getting larger.

As his buddy **Susan Tagle** once said, "He never turned down anybody who asked. *Kahit sino, ni hindi namin kakilala. Basta meron siya, makakakuha ka*."

I voted for **Raul Roco**, but to this day I have never doubted that FPJ ran for the presidency because he genuinely wanted to make a difference in people's lives.

I will pity anybody—as I will always pity ignorance, especially among the intelligent—who doubts that FPJ meant it, when he said he wanted to give "hope to the poor" and to "give back to the people" who made him Da King.

I know he meant every word. He was that kind of man.

**Susan Roces** was right. He didn't have to do anything more. He was made. They shared a good life together. They had nephews and nieces they indulged. He could buy anything he wanted, travel anywhere, live very well.

Add to that, FPJ never needed power—nor wanted it. If he did, he wouldn't have waited till he was 64 to make his move!

No, power was never an incentive. It was as he said it was: The voices and the clamor were insistent and desperate. It would've been cowardly to turn his back on that.

Some still ask: Why did he think he could do it?

Ah, but there was something in the man that could.

Everyone who had ever met him knew that the man had a strength of will—and character. If he thought he was right, there was no moving him.

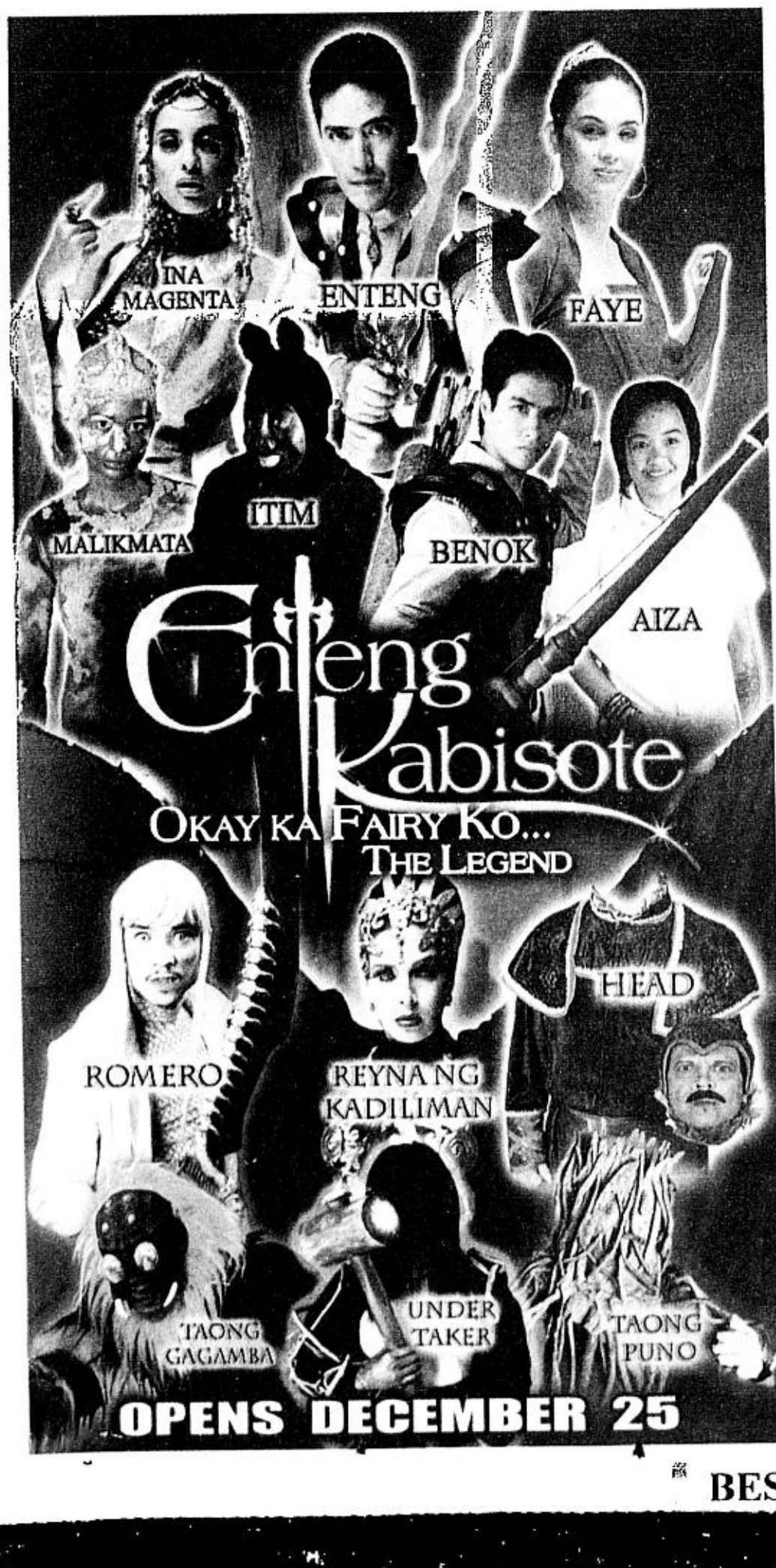
In that stead, he could not countenance anyone in his government surviving corruption. He would never have allowed his key people to embarrass him, much less goad him into gambling and carousing all night.

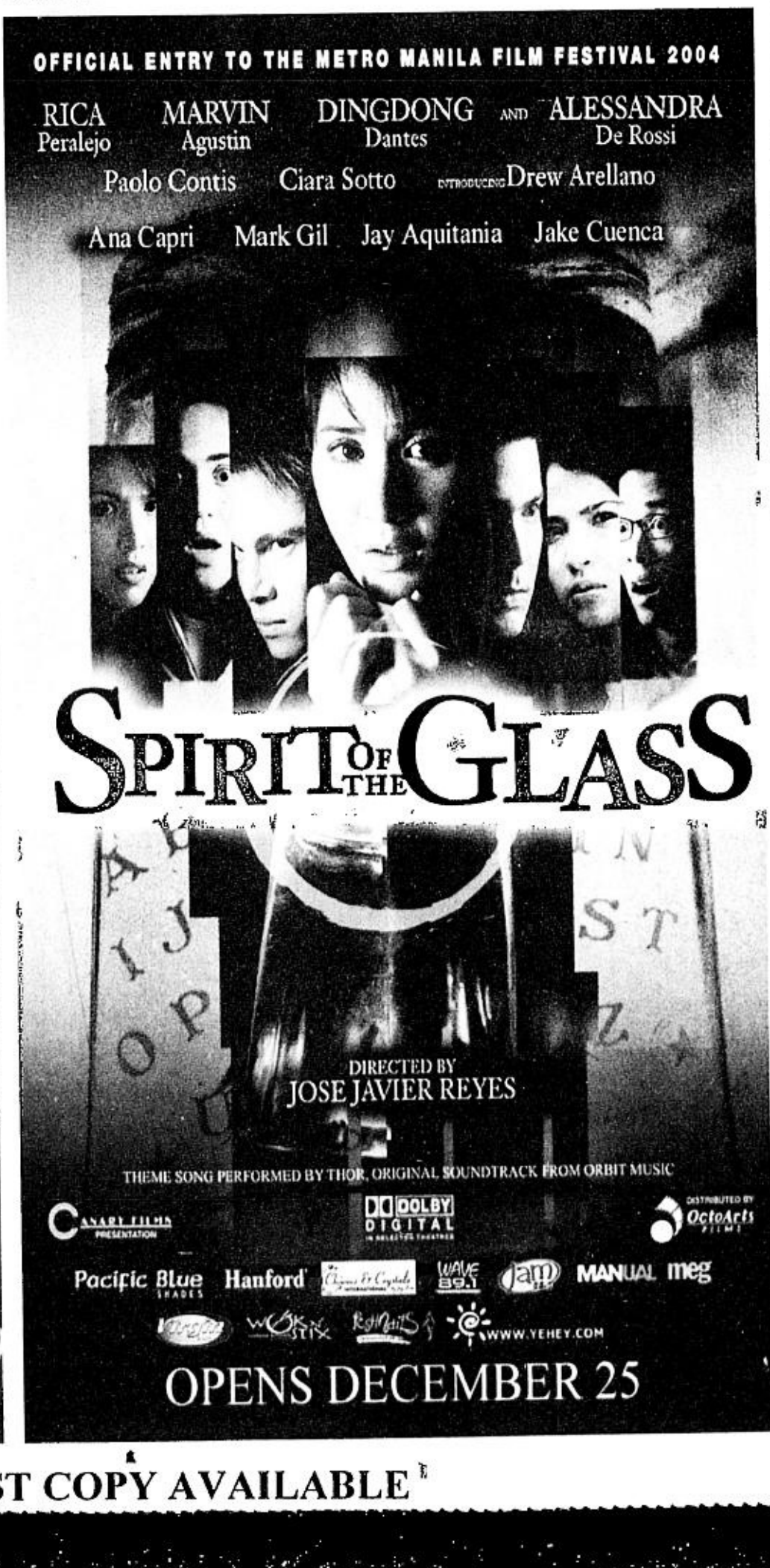
That was another thing I picked up in the short time I got to know FPJ. His instincts were good.

He could spot a fake a mile away. He knew right from wrong. And true, he may have made all his mistakes in the past, and maybe gone to make a few more, but there was, in the man, a core that was good.

Truly good.

Which is more than you can say about those who declared themselves winners in the election past.

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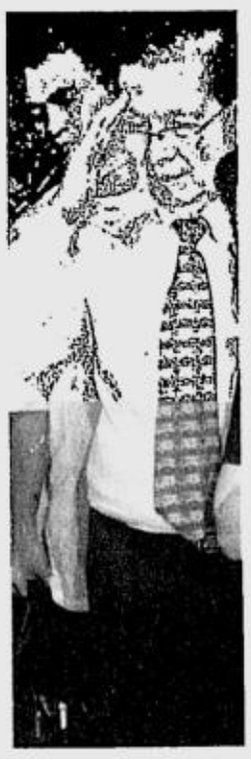
THE ENDLESS LINE continues as more and more people pay tribute to the "Da King."



SENATORIAL SALUTE from Juan Ponce Enrile

FORMER co-star, ex-child star Niño Muhlach

A CHEERFUL PAUSE in a time of grief, with former Sen. Nikki Coseteng (above, left) and actress Caridad Sanchez. In black, another former senator, FPJ's running mate, Loren Legarda (left), is a regular wake visitor.

# FPJ generosity not surprising...

From page A5-1

ble that FPJ took his loss in the May election so seriously that it affected his health. "It was Ronnie's first time to join politics," he said. "It's possible that he thought the people didn't love him and didn't vote for him.

"Philippine politics is very dirty," added Rico, himself a former Makati City councilor. "If you lose, it doesn't mean no one voted for you. It could be that you were cheated."

### No bad loser

But Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde said it was "not in Ronnie's personality to feel bad about losing."

"That's not like him," said Mother Lily. "His dream was to help the poor. That's why he wanted to be the leader of the country. He just wanted to help change it.

"His death is a big loss to the industry," Mother Lily added of FPJ, who had also produced movies through his FPJ Productions. "This is not known to many, but even when he was not actively producing films, he was still helping the small actors financially."

She said FPJ went to her house one day and told her he was interested in making a movie under Regal Films.

"He picked Maricel [Soriano] to be his leading lady," she said. "They made 'Batang Quiapo.' He knew that I had not been earning then, and he wanted to help.

Talent manager Douglas Quijano said he would miss FPJ's "generosity to people who needed him a lot."

### 'Buti nga'

FPJ's running mate in the elections, former Sen. Loren Legarda, described him as "a genuine person, a rarity these days."

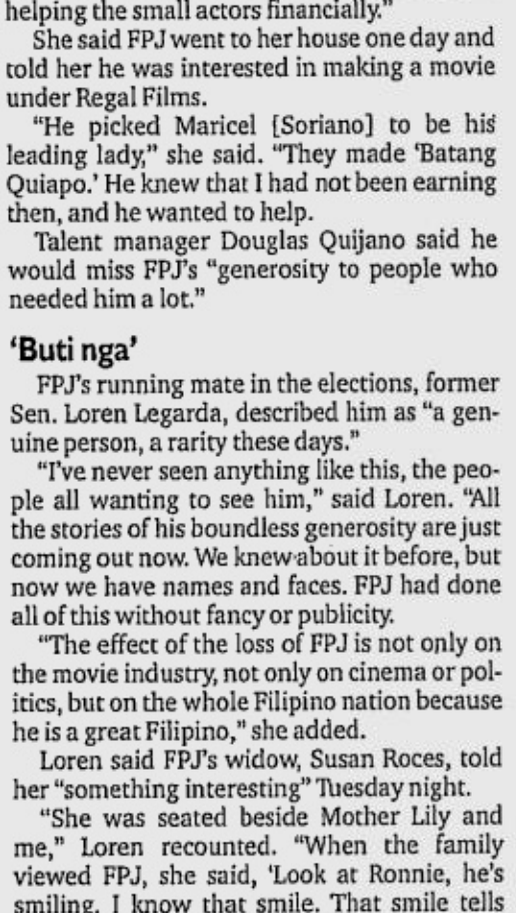
"I've never seen anything like this, the people all wanting to see him," said Loren. "All the stories of his boundless generosity are just coming out now. We knew about it before, but now we have names and faces. FPJ had done all of this without fancy or publicity.

"The effect of the loss of FPJ is not only on the movie industry, not only on cinema or politics, but on the whole Filipino nation because he is a great Filipino," she added.

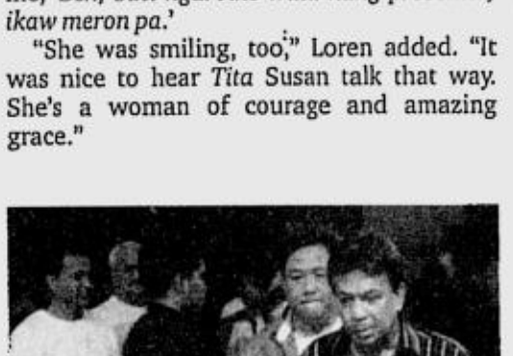
Loren said FPJ's widow, Susan Roces, told her "something interesting" Tuesday night.

"She was seated beside Mother Lily and me," Loren recounted. "When the family viewed FPJ, she said, 'Look at Ronnie, he's smiling. I know that smile. That smile tells me, '*Beh, buti nga. Ako wala nang problema, ikaw meron pa.*'

"She was smiling, too," Loren added. "It was nice to hear *Tita* Susan talk that way. She's a woman of courage and amazing grace."



"I'LL NEVER forget that night," swears Rico J. Puno.



THEY, TOO, look up to FPJ—director/actress Laurice Guillen and talent manager Douglas Quijano.

Hatakin ang inyong loved ones ngayong pasko.
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TUESDAY VARGAS MIKEL CAMPOS
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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

# Life of a British diplomat in the Philippines

ON THE lighter side, he talks of eating a sea mantis in Jolo—"it's like an oversized prawn but the taste is out of this world."

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

OUTGOING British Ambassador to the Philippines Paul Dimond has seen more places in the country than the average Filipino.

He says since he was posted in the Philippines two and a half years ago he has been travelling around the country almost every week.

By the end of the year, the 60-year-old will bid adieu to the British diplomatic corps, where he spent 41 years in and say goodbye to his last post—a country he has grown terribly fond of.

Dimond was the guest of the INQUIRER during its recent roundtable discussion where he graciously answered a series of questions that ranged from politics, trade to the personal.

Ever the true diplomat, he claims he starts a typical day by reading the INQUIRER—first the front page then the opinion page. His criticism of media is so subtle, no offense is taken.

"It sets the scene. The value of it as a strategic point, a reference point. We cherish the freedom of media but we need to remind ourselves one needs to balance our view of the world from the prism of media. As ambassador I learn a lot [from reading the newspaper]. I travel a lot and I read the local newspapers. I need to balance [what I read] by talking to people."

DIMOND

Dimond looks forward to becoming a private citizen. He is set to go back to his home in London at the end of the year where his 95-year-old mother, who lives by herself, resides.

"It will be the first time in 41 and three-fourth years where I will have no set agenda on a Monday morning," he laughs.

But he says "Asia is part of my life" and would like to take on a role in London where he can "maintain contact with my friends in Asia."

He bats for increased trade between the Philippines and Europe pointing out the European community is the biggest investor in the country.

He also favors having more Filipino professionals in the UK. There are 102,000 Filipinos in Britain, 1,000 of whom are students. He says efforts are being made to encourage more Filipino students and bringing up the number to 5,000 to go to the UK instead of the US for graduate studies.

## Depletion theory

On the services front, he says there remains a big market in Britain for Filipino workers specifically nurses, caregivers, hotel and restaurant staff, software developers. To avoid the break-up of families, he says the British government encourages the workers to bring their families to the UK after a certain period has passed.

Dimond, however, points out a vital issue that is not currently being addressed. He calls it the depletion theory.

"To stay overseas in the long-term you will lose the multiplier effect. If too many of the middle class are not in the Philippines you will not see the vibrant multiplier effect."

This means if the Filipinos decide to stay abroad, the impact of their money on the local economy will be gone because the tendency is to just bring families with them.

Before his Manila post, Dimond was in Tokyo. His first foray into diplomacy was as a language student in Tokyo learning Japanese. He eventually got posted in Japan years later.

## Memories

When he leaves the Philippines, he will carry memories that not many Filipinos would ever experience.

He talks of handing over a small seaweed processing facility to former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front who have given up arms and decided to contribute to the country's economy.

Seeing this made Dimond very optimistic that peace will eventually be achieved in Mindanao. He believes that with peace, economic growth will not be far behind.

He talks of meeting Dato Paglas who converted a war zone into a banana plantation where people of varied cultures and religions have been able to live harmoniously the past years. *(See story on Page B4.)*

On the lighter side, he talks of eating a sea mantis in Jolo—"it's like an oversized prawn but the taste is out of this world."

Dimond pushed for the involvement of the British government in programs that aim to train local people for the entry of funds for development.

He points out the problem is not lack of funding but the absorptive capacity of the local environs. He mentions supporting the local poverty reduction action team (LPRATS) which helps train local officials.

He is helping organize a donor's conference in June for Mindanao.

But Dimond's main preoccupation when he gets to London is to help a British charity which helps restore broken nerves of individuals.

He is definite about visiting the Philippines again. But if he does not, the country will have a physical presence in his London home as he is set to take with him some Cebu-made furniture.

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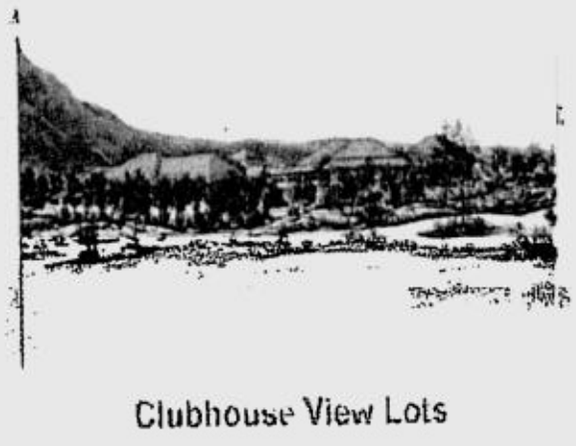
Nature Trail Lots

Fairway Lots



Clubhouse View Lots

For further details on these distinctive lots and Ayala Greenfield Estates, please call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

# All a business traveler wants for Christmas

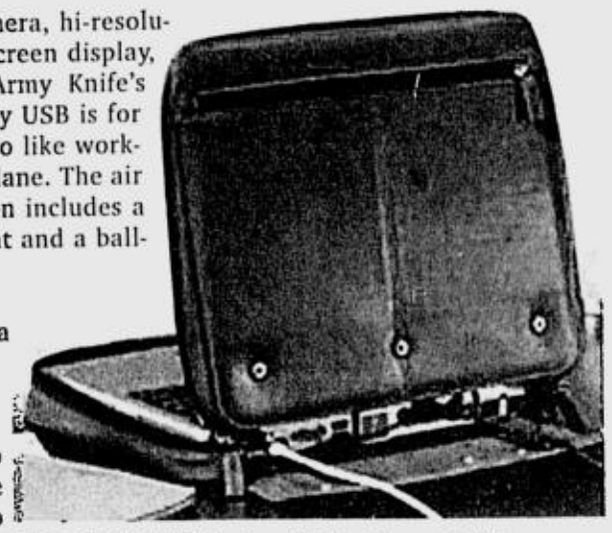
By Sandra Garcia
*Contributor*

FOR the business traveler who is always on the road all year-round, lightweight, practical and high tech are the key elements to consider when looking for their perfect present.

**BUSINESS TRAVEL**

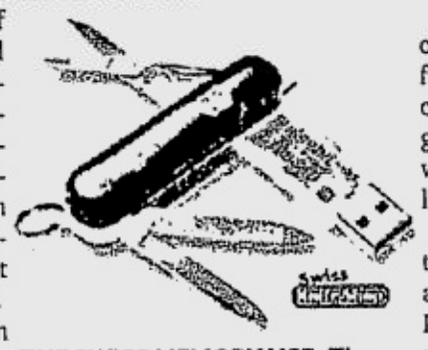
Give gadgets that will keep him or her connected to the office like wireless Internet through a Wi-Fi finder or a mobile phone packed with features: wireless email, video and still camera, hi-resolution touch screen display, etc. Swiss Army Knife's Swissmemory USB is for travelers who like working on the plane. The air travel version includes a red LED light and a ballpoint only.

Planon's DocuPen is a pen-sized battery-powered scanner. To scan, one just has to slide down the page. Once it is plugged into a computer, it uploads all the pages scanned.



THE LEVENGER is a bag that looks good with or without the laptop.

A neck pillow will ensure he or she doesn't sleep on his seatmate's shoulders. The dual-chambered American Tourister travel pillow allows individual cushioning of head and neck for maximum relaxation, adjustable by inflating each section for desired support and firmness.



THE SWISS MEMORY USB. The travel version includes a red LED light and a pen only but be prepared for airport security to take a closer look—it still looks like a knife.

An alarm clock will ensure he or she doesn't miss her appointments.

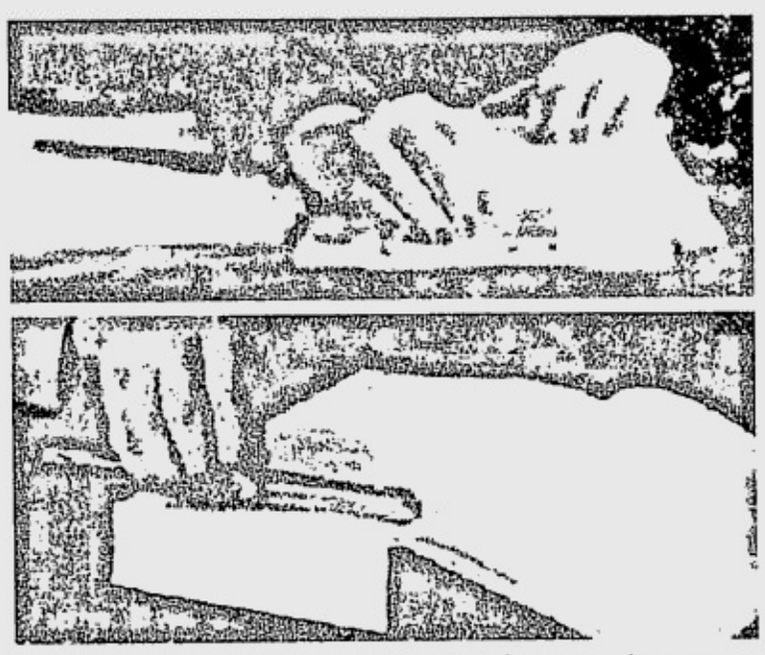
You can never go wrong with luggage. For short trips, the business traveler will appreciate the overnight carry-on bag which fits beneath the plane seat.

The Levenger bag is a trendy computer-friendly briefcase that looks good with or without the laptop.

Other practical presents are portable DVDs, mini-umbrella, a good book, greeting cards, digital camera, palm pilot, headphones, manicure set, business card holder, portable iron, slippers, a comfortable pair of shoes that expand or a traveling golf bag.

ALL/ B3

GIVE gadgets that will keep him or her connected to the office like wireless Internet through a wi-fi finder.



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# Canada quietly helping RP for over 30 years now

DAVAO CITY—For the past 30 years, Canada has been the country's major donor in pushing for sustainable development, as could be seen in its more than 1,000 projects across the country.

Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Sutherland said such commitment would continue in the coming decades.

Sutherland, along with his key officials and local nongovernment organization partners, was here on Wednesday to sign the memorandum of agreement between small-medium enterprises (SMEs) and the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), a book launching that chronicles three decades of Canadian funding for local initiatives in the country and a turnover ceremony of a school facility to the indigenous people in Datu Salumay, Marilog, Paquibato District here.

Sutherland said their approach to the development projects is going to the "grassroots levels" to help communities achieve "self empowerment."

"We expect that the idea comes from the Filipinos and we give a little of our expertise and a little finance," Sutherland said.

This finance (donor funds), which comes from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), a project managed by the Embassy of Canada and the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, amounts to $25 million a year.

The agreement signed between the SMEs and MBC, Sutherland said, was designed to help local communities further promote their enterprise, thus creating more jobs for the many unemployed.

The recently launched Philippine-Canada Development Cooperation third book titled "Tatlong Dekada, Sarisaring Istorya" chronicles the "success stories" of local partnership bringing positive change in their respective communities since the Canada Fund began in 1972.

The Book 1 was focused on Luzon while Book 2, on Visayas.

The Third Book highlights the uniqueness of the people of Mindanao in having to face their age-old problems, their determination and hardship that define their success as an individual.

North Cotabato parish priest Robert Layson recalled their experience during the 2000 war in Pikit, wherein the Canada Fund came to their parish and offered P790,000 intended for the supplemental feeding of thousands of child evacuees.

The gesture, Layson said, paved the way for the outpouring of government and nongovernment support to address the needs of the displaced families.

The Canada Fund was also instrumental in providing basic education for the indigenous people.

Ilawan Center for Peace and Sustainable Development chair Benjamin Abadiano said at least P2 million was donated for the school building facility for the Matigsalog children in Marilog District here.

Abadiano, who was also the prime mover of Tabang Mindanaw, an NGO that helps war evacuees, said they "started from scratch" when they built the school building.

He said the children in elementary are now undergoing literacy programs. The high school students who usually trek several kilometers daily toward the public school, now has a school in their own village.

Abadiano said they were eyeing a college in the next few years, which is a development very much welcomed by the village tribal elders.

"We did not expect this to happen in a small village like ours," Pastor Jaime Ombon, a villager, said.

Gerard Belager, head of CIDA, said a "brand new project" is going to the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

He said some $19 million is allotted for the many projects that would cover and "assist all municipalities" in the ARMM.

Sutherland said there was a need to achieve development in the country in order to achieve peace. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# All a business traveler wants for Christmas

From page B2

And of course, the intangibles form every business traveler's wish list: More airplane leg room, shorter immigration queue, hassle-free transport from airport, two weeks without any travel, more time for the kids, wrinkle-free clothes, on time connecting flights, a seatmate who does not snore, a smile from airline crew during flight delays and time, time, time!

Business Travel Tip: Female business travelers who are always on the go, check out Toni and Guy's Oleg Stepanon, foreign stylist and art director, for a manageable but gorgeous 'do while on the road. Toni&Guy, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Happy (traveling) holidays!

Feedback at sdg1402@yahoo.com

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SundayBiz
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

# Profile of four ex-CEOs' social conscience

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATIONS have for a long time been viewed as part of the evil empire that live for no other purpose than to make a profit.

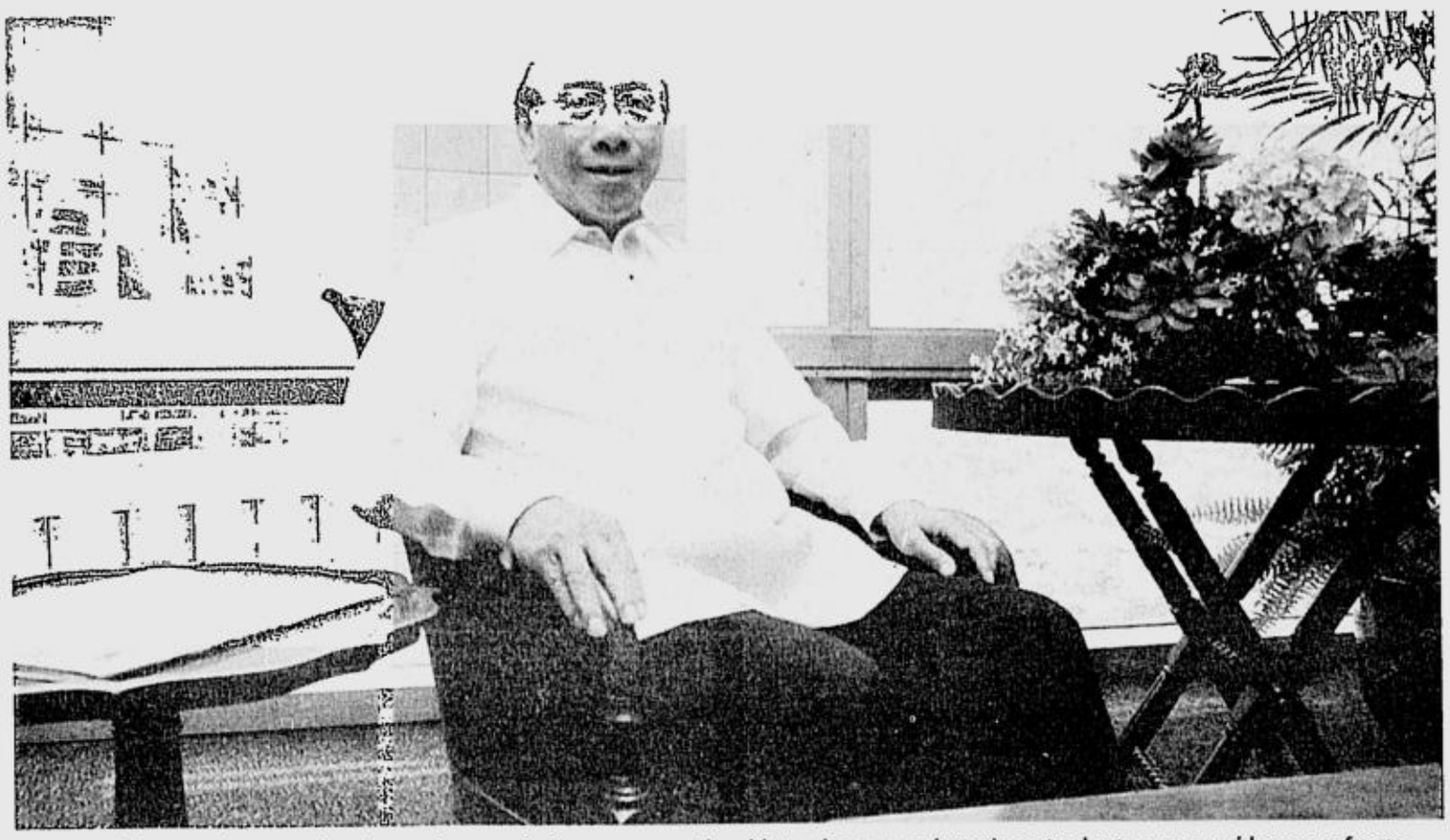
The sentiment toward these companies slowly changed throughout the years, because these same profitable firms poured in huge funds to protect the environment, invest in public education and bankroll projects that seek to help those in need.

Studies show corporations' efforts to help others, however, are only as good as the CEOs' commitment.

If the CEO does not buy into the concept, then the volunteer efforts and corporate responsibility projects die a natural death.

Fortunately, there is an increasing tribe of CEOs that have lent time, effort and sometimes their own money to worthwhile projects.

SundayBiz features here some of these CEOs, who are also active in the Philippine Business for Social Progress.



SANTOS: The paradigm must be changed, we say look, you may not be able to give money, but why not volunteer or provide some of your expertise. It is in fact in times of economic difficulties that the need for help is greater.

## Juan B. Santos—Small over the big

NESTLE Philippines chair Juan B. Santos candidly says he is one of those who gets turned off by grandiose ideas to solve the country's myriad problems such as poverty and unemployment.

But share with him a specific project with specific goals, then it gets his full attention and a big slice of his packed schedule.

Santos says this is why he has involved himself fully in corporate responsibility projects of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, believing that business can truly make a difference in people's lives other than just providing quality goods and services.

One such project is PBSP's Step-up project that strives to help improve the living condition of selected poor barangays in 23 municipalities through the partnership between the community, business and PBSP.

"I am proud of that project because unlike many projects for so-called poverty reduction, here the help is pinpointed. These may be small, little changes but these change their lives," Santos says.

He was also attracted to the project because of the participation of the private sector, in that companies adopt a community and see for themselves the significant improvements in the barangay, such as providing water and drainage systems, roads or a community center.

"I am personally excited about it because there is accountability, there is a scorecard. We are departing from that mentality of a doleout. What we see is empowerment and sharing responsibilities," Santos says.

He says the satisfaction he gets from seeing a community transformed from one marked by muddy streets with no access to water to one that is well-planned and maintained is "immeasurable" and more than enough to compensate the time and effort that he puts into these projects.

That satisfaction is duplicated across the other social responsibility projects that he is involved in and he is one who shares his experiences with others to get more private sector participation.

"This is the passion we are trying to contaminate them (private sector) with," he says.

Santos says he is heartened by the fact that more and more companies, from multinationals to small enterprises, who feel that they have a responsibility to help others in the community. There is however still a long way to go.

"There is no groundswell of understanding yet but the start is good. We are in the take-off stake even in the area of sustainable development," he says.

One reason behind the limited number of companies involved in social responsibility projects is the misconception that these projects are only for the big multinational companies or large Philippine corporations with big budgets.

"There is a tremendous misunderstanding that these projects are only for big business that is why we do a lot of effort to promote that spirit that it is not limited to big business," he says.

"The paradigm must be changed, we say look, you may not be able to give money, but why not volunteer or provide some of your expertise. It is in fact in times of economic difficulties that the need for help is greater," he stresses.

Santos cites companies such as Boysen Paints that takes the time out to help train people on proper painting techniques, and Monark Equipment that shares its heavy equipment for PBSP projects.

Companies such as these, he says, did not have big budgets, yet were still able to make a positive impact on the lives of the people they help.

"The cost may be very little but the effect is big, it can really change the life of people," he says.

Santos also cites companies that have adopted the principles of environmental protection and sustainability taught by Nestle Philippines through its Greening the Supply Chain project.

"As a multinational company, we follow certain guidelines on the environment but then our people said these are not going to have an effect if it is only practiced in the company, it should be shared. That was how the project came about in 2002," he says.

Nestle has so far included 76 companies in its Greening the Supply Chain project and the only condition that Nestle asked of them is the passion to implement these environmental protection principles and this should start from the top management.

Santos says the lessons these companies learned have done wonders for their business, some reported significant cuts in their costs and they are now spreading the word to other companies.

He stresses that there really is no way for business to go but to go beyond their business sphere and reach out to the less advantaged.

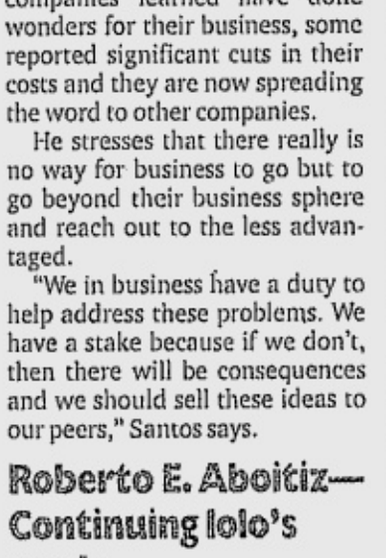
"We in business have a duty to help address these problems. We have a stake because if we don't, then there will be consequences and we should sell these ideas to our peers," Santos says.

## Roberto E. Aboitiz—Continuing lolo's work

THE HIGHLY diversified Aboitiz group of companies with interests in power, shipping and real estate was born out of a closely held family enterprise with only 10 employees.

Throughout the century that the Aboitiz group made great strides in growing its business, it never forgot its beginnings and dedicated itself to helping others improve themselves.

Roberto E. Aboitiz, president of Aboitiz Land Inc. and a member of the third generation of the Aboitiz family, says it was his grandfather Ramon who started the group's philanthropic journey.



ABOITIZ: Helping others is a serious intent on our part.

He started with just very basic charity, such as giving money to beggars and religious groups. Later on he formed partnerships with groups such as Don Bosco. He would put up the land while Don Bosco would put up the school.

Aboitiz's father, Eduardo, followed his father's example but took it to the next level, by putting up the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc., and engaging a full-time staff to draw up long-term social development projects to help the communities where the Aboitiz group is present.

"The foundation focused on Visayas and Mindanao not only because we have operations here but also because these are the areas that are not so much addressed by other foundations," Aboitiz says.

Eduardo also became one of the founding members of the PBSP, because of the belief that there is a need for organized or institutionalized methods of doing social projects, since many individual companies lack the expertise to do it on their own.

He says the Aboitiz group espouses corporate responsibility because it has become an indelible part of its culture.

"Helping others is a serious intent on our part. We have more than 80 people in the private foundation and the corporate foundation Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc.," he says.

"What we want is to share what we can in the places we operate and we do not do doleouts. That is easy and fast. It is the creative way of working with communities on providing them with opportunities that do not lead to dependency that is more challenging," he stresses.

AGFI focuses on education, enterprise development and primary health and childcare because it believes in implementing programs that empower people to change and improve the quality of their lives.

More recently, the group acted as a convenor to bring together different sectors of society such as nongovernment organizations, local government units and business to tackle urgent social issues such as water sustainability in Metro Cebu and improving the quality of public school education.

"We believe in working with others, not alone, so that we can get the most involvement and accomplish more than just talk," he says.

Aboitiz stresses that these principles of helping others are ingrained in the individual employees, making many of them eager volunteers, ready to lend their time and effort for worthwhile projects.

"I have always believed that everybody wants to participate in making a better world and if they know that the company is doing something, they feel proud working for that company," he says.

## Toto Paglas—Rising from a war zone

DATU Ibrahim Pendatun Paglas III was just in Grade 2 when he realized that there was something wrong with the way people lived in his hometown in Maguindanao.

Paglas, who came from a dominant political and economic clan that has produced a senator, general and political leaders, saw that while he and other political families were living well, the members of the community remained poor.

"I did not see any economic development in Muslim areas where only the leaders seemed to develop. I was not comfortable with it," Paglas said.

Thus, when he turned 28 and became mayor of Datu Paglas in Maguindanao, Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, he decided to do something to change the situation and he chose the way of peace.

PAGLAS: The key is the willingness of both sides to adjust to each other's cultural peculiarities.

The young mayor rallied the community to espouse peace to let progress creep into the community and by the time he stepped down as mayor after three terms, Datu Paglas turned from a war one in the 1980s to a town with a zero crime rate since 1991.

Datu Paglas even has a Peace Plaza surrounded by the flags of countries that helped his town; a Pyramid of Peace and a Tower of Guns, symbolic of the surrender of "lawless elements who laid their guns to rest."

And progress did come. There are now roads that connect the town to the rest of the community and the Land Bank of the Philippines came in and offered financing for livelihood projects.

Most importantly, foreign investors dared to put their money in the town in 1997 to develop the area into a world-class banana plantation.

The entry of investors from Italy, Saudi Arabia, the United States and local counterparts became the acid test of how far the community has truly gone to maintain the peace.

At first there was mistrust because the investors came with Israeli technicians, sworn enemies of Muslims everywhere, and Christian engineers and foremen who would have Muslims, many of them former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, as their superiors.

Paglas found it difficult himself to accept them, but he faced the hard truth that he would have to accept them and work together if the vision or the plantation would ever be fulfilled. The community soon followed his lead.

"I, as a Muslim myself, told the people that our problem is education. We may want to be the supervisors but we can't because we lack the knowledge, so for now we have to learn from them. If we want to be like them, then we have to study and learn," he says.

The people took up the challenge and now the La Frutera plantation in Datu Paglas exports top quality bananas to the Middle East, Iran, Japan, China, Korea and on an exploratory basis, to Singapore and Hong Kong.

More importantly, the La Frutera plantation, the only foreign investment in ARMM, has become a showcase of cross-cultural harmony, proving that if there is a common goal and a leader willing to make the sacrifices, it is possible to heal old hurts and bring different people together toward progress.

"The experience of La Frutera in doing business provided a living showcase to many observers, and made potential investors realize that foreign investments could indeed work under our culture, that Western type management could blend with traditional practices," he says.

It is because of the many fruits of their labor that Paglas has taken it upon himself to duplicate the success of Datu Paglas in other areas in Muslim Mindanao.

He is also informing others of the beauty of cross-cultural harmony as chair of the advisory committee for the business and peace program of the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

"The key is the willingness of both sides to adjust to each other's cultural peculiarities which would often be put to the test, interpersonal relationships within the clan are often put on the line, frustrations came and emotions often get in the line of decision making, but as they say, one has to pay the price in the form of tears, sweat and blood," he says.

## Gerard Brimo—Wealth in poverty

GERARD Brimo, former president of Philex Mining Corp., says mining is one industry that can truly generate wealth in poverty alleviation because mineral-rich resources are usually in remote, far-flung areas in the Philippines.

These same areas are also among the poorest, thus, Brimo believes it is part of Philex's responsibilities to reach out and help raise the standard of living in the communities where it operates.

"It behooves us to reach out because we need that in this country. It is hard to stand alone with such poverty in the countryside," Brimo explains.

This is one reason why Philex has lived by the principles of sustainable development and corporate social responsibility long before these become the buzzwords they are today.

"These are ingrained in our mission statement and code of ethics and for these to work, it must be a policy and all the employees know that. This means that an employee would keep his area clean, would be involved in projects like reforestation," Brimo says.

Brimo adds that Philex is guided by the provisions of the Mining Act of 1995, which prescribes that at least one percent of mining and milling costs be set aside for social and development projects and another one percent for environment programs.

Philex, however, had social and environmental projects in place long before the passage of the act that covers all mining companies.

In its 45-year-old Padcal mine project in Tuba, Benguet, for instance, it was able to provide free education to the employees as well as the children in nearby communities, farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems and livelihood projects.

Some 11,000 students went through Philex' elementary school and another 4,000 got their high school diplomas. Quite a few, he says, went on to finish college.

"I even received a letter from one of our ordinary miners who said because of our school system, his five children have become professionals. I realize that is one generation away from poverty and it is good enough for me to know that we really make a difference," he says.

Philex is also involved in reforestation efforts that garnered various awards such as "Best Mining Forest" and "Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Platinum Award."

Another major testament to Philex's environmental principles is its ISO 14001 certification for its environmental management system, given in September last year.

The Padcal mine is the first and so far the only major metallic mine to have obtained an ISO certification for environmental management.

The Padcal mine community is home to 16,000 people of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds and Brimo is proud to say that as many as 600 of its employees are from what is called indigenous people.

"These are people who choose to change their way of life so they come from different areas and choose to work here and we accommodate them," Brimo says.

Brimo believes that an increasing number of Filipino companies, not just mining firms, have realized that they have to help reduce poverty, especially in the Philippines where it is so rampant.

"I believe that most large companies realize that we have to contribute, that we are not just there to realize income for our stockholders but to help individuals as well," he says.

BRIMO: It behooves us to reach out because we need that in this country. It is hard to stand alone with such poverty in the countryside.

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DepED

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

## Invitation for Bids

Loan No.: 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)

IFB No.: ADB-SEDIP-2004-TX

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is intended to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of Makabayan Textbooks (TXs) and Teachers' Manuals (TMs) under SEDIP.
2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Makabayan TXs and TMs in Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (MAPEH) 1st – 4th year to secondary schools under SEDIP, as follows:
   - 2.1 Lot 1: 249,198 copies of MAPEH I Textbooks and 3,899 copies of Teachers' Manuals
   - 2.2 Lot 2: 216,190 copies of MAPEH II Textbooks and 3,448 copies of Teachers' Manuals
   - 2.3 Lot 3: 181,802 copies of MAPEH III Textbooks and 2,973 copies of Teachers' Manuals
   - 2.4 Lot 4: 154,855 copies of MAPEH IV Textbooks and 2,612 copies of Teachers' Manuals

   Estimated Printing and Delivery Completion Period: 120 days.
   Indicative Printing and Delivery Dates: April to July 2005.
3. The mode of procurement shall be through International Shopping (IS). A bidder may opt to bid on any or all of the lots required.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information or inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting **December 28, 2004** at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Office, Ground Floor, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, 1605 Philippines, Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6542 / 633-9342 or at Fax No. (632) 635-3762. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the address given in paragraph 4 and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check.
6. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of the total bid amount, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries and shall be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before **10:00 a.m. on January 23, 2005** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **January 10, 2005** at 10:00 a.m. at the same address indicated in paragraph 6.
8. The DepED reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract (s) without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.

**(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – December 19 & 26, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg # 6, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz,
Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-83-01 Local 1625/1627
E-Mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

8 December 2004

### RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
### (REBID) SECURITY SERVICES
### IFB No. 2004-12-27 (29)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the appropriation provided under the DOH budget (RA No. 9206) intends to apply the sum of approximately *Nineteen Million One Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Philippine Pesos (PhP 19,157,280.00)*, to provide **(REBID) SECURITY SERVICES** to the DOH Central Office for the CY 2005.
2. The Department of Health not invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders, who are qualified to participate for the said services.
3. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance with eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184. *The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)*, and is open to all organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) equity belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, only this Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
4. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the Procurement Division, 2/F, Bldg. No. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila Telephone No. 741-9775 (DL) and Trunkline 743-8301 Locals 1625 to 1626, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, from **December 15 to 23, 2004**, upon submission of a written application to the following address:

   ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
   Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson
   Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz,
   Manila

   and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Thousand Five Hundred Philippine Pesos (PhP 8,500.00). Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis.
5. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties, on **December 21, 2004** at 1:30 p.m., at the Procurement Division (PD) Conference Room, 3/F, Bldg. No. 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
6. Bids must be delivered not later than 9:00 a.m. on **December 27, 2004**, at the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Conference Room, G/F, Bldg. No. 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms:
   - a) Cash, Certified/Cashier's or Manager's Check, Bank Draft — One Percent (1%)
   - b) Bank Guarantee — One & a Half Percent (1-1/2%)
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

**(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Dec. 12 & 19, 2004)

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Interested applicants may submit their résumé's personally to:

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Look for Ms.Pam Navarro

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**Tel: 901-0217/18 – Fax: 889-7177**
**Email: infocentre@unicmanila.org**

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**Bonheur Marketing Corporation**, a distribution company belonging to the Top 200 Corporations invites highly competent professionals for its expansion. We offer competitive compensation package and benefits including sales incentives.

## FIELD SALES SUPERVISOR

Responsible for planning, organizing, controlling, and leading the sales force operation toward attainment of sales objectives. Two years experience as supervisor, proficient in formulation and presentation of business plans.

## KEY ACCOUNT SPECIALIST

Responsible for sales volume and business building activities for leading supermarkets, groceries and wholesalers. Male or female, at least 2 years experience in key accounts management preferably in high volume, fast moving consumer products.

## VAN SALESMEN

Responsible for distribution, collection and merchandising for selected downline retailers. Preferably a college graduate with experience in sales distribution in consumer products.

## CREDIT & COLLECTION STAFF

Female, single, not more than 25 years old, BS Accountancy graduate, at least with one year experience and willing to visit different depots.

## ENCODER

Female, single not more than 25 years old, BS computer graduate

We offer opportunities for career development and highly competitive remuneration.

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**Vice President – Sales**
**P.O. Box 2743, Makati City**

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**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of the following items for use at the NFA Central Office as follows:

| Item No. | Equipment | Approved Budget |
|---|---|---|
| **A. Chemistry Section** | | |
| 1. | Sample Concentrator with Dry Block Heater | 273,000.00 |
| 2. | Ultrasonic Cleaner, Long Bed | 150,000.00 |
| 3. | Muffle Furnace (2 units) | 740,000.00 |
| 4. | Refrigerated Circulator | 165,000.00 |
| 5. | Adjustable Volume Pipettor (2 units) | 40,000.00 |
| 6. | Elisa Reader and Accessories | 500,000.00 |
| 7. | Electronic Dessiccator with built-in Hygrometer | 250,000.00 |
| 8. | Top Loading Balance With Accessories | 175,000.00 |
| 9. | Water Bath | 95,000.00 |
| 10. | Dessiccators | 315,000.00 |
| 11. | Test Weight Set | 248,000.00 |
| 12. | Air Oven | 270,000.00 |
| **B. Microbiology Section** | | |
| 13. | pH Meter for Microbiology Section | 250,000.00 |
| 14. | Compact Panel Mount Thermohygrometers (3 units) | 52,500.00 |
| 15. | Laboratory Cart (2 units) | 100,000.00 |
| 16. | Dispensette (4 units) | 100,000.00 |
| 17. | Pipette Jars (3 units) | 30,000.00 |
| 18. | Pipette Washer | 25,000.00 |
| 19. | Chlorine Test Kits | 35,000.00 |
| 20. | Hepa Filters for Clean Bench (13 units) | 260,000.00 |
| 21. | NIST – Traceable Thermometer, -1°C to 101°C | 20,000.00 |
| 22. | Pipettor (2 units) | 96,000.00 |
| 23. | Anaerobic Jars | 250,000.00 |
| **C. Quality Control** | | |
| 24. | Thermometer Reader with Penetration Probes (3 units) | 60,000.00 |
| 25. | Chlorine Test Kit with DPD reagent tablet | 25,000.00 |
| **D. Physical and Sensory** | | |
| 26. | Electronic Laboratory Top Loading Balance | 100,000.00 |
| 27. | Thermocouple Thermometer Recorder (1 unit) or Meter with Penetration Probes (2 units) | 35,000.00<br>60,000.00 |
| 28. | Metrological Weight Set | 80,000.00 |
| **E. Technology Development Division** | | |
| 29. | Analytical Weights, Class E2 | 240,000.00 |
| 30. | Standard Weights, Class F1 | 100,000.00 |
| 31. | Top Loading Balance | 100,000.00 |
| **F. Shelf-Life Testing** | | |
| 32. | Glass Dessicator (2 units) | 92,000.00 |
| **G. Thermal Process** | | |
| 33. | ASTM Glass Thermometer | 35,000.00 |
| **H. Package Testing Section** | | |
| 34. | Glass Desscicator | 180,000.00 |
| 35. | Vacuum Pump with Vacuum | 50,000.00 |
| 36. | Dessiccator Cabinet | 65,000.00 |
| **I. Engineering Division** | | |
| 37. | Ice Maker for Ice Cubes | 430,000.00 |
| 38. | Ice Maker for Flake Ice | 350,000.00 |
| 39. | Automatic Hand Washer | 581,000.00 |
| **J. Microanalytical Section** | | |
| 40. | Vacuum Pump | 50,000.00 |

**The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:**

| | |
|---|---|
| December 12 to 29, 2004 | Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents and Submission of Letter of Intent |
| January 4, 2005 (10:00 AM) | Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Floor, NFA Boardroom |
| January 18, 2005 (9:00-9:45 AM) | Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA Submission of eligibility documents and bid proposals |
| (10:00 AM) | Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals |

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last five (5) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Eligibility requirements and bidding documents may be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor Tengsico Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon payment of P5,000.00, non-refundable fee. The Letter of Intent specifying the equipment/item to be bidded should be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than the close of business hours of December 28, 2004. Bids for any or all lots should conform with the Bidder's Letter of Intent. For further inquiries, please call Mr. Jose D. Chua at Tel. No. 712-6813 (direct line) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 8923.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

**(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chair

(PDI – December 12 & 19, 2004)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SundayBIZ
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

# From 'home along da riles' to dreamland

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—She used to live in a "home along da riles," just like the popular Philippine sitcom, but 49-year-old Vilna Rafal and her family, along with 426 other families who were former informal settlers living near the Muntinlupa railways, are now in "dreamland."

They no longer risk life and limb and hear the incoming screech of trains but have their own homes and livelihood in Dreamland Heights, San Pedro, Laguna, made possible through a $1-million grant from the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, financed by the Government of Japan.

## Relocation site

The relocation site of about 2 hectares in Barangay United Bayanihan, San Pedro, Laguna, was selected by the communities themselves. They also coined the name "dreamland" for their community. It is about 8 kilometers from their former homes alongside the Philippine National Railways rail tracks. "*Dito, wala nang baha at bagyo dahil mataas. At parang* Tagaytay *ang lamig; hindi kagaya sa* Buli *na ang sikip-sikip* (Here, we no longer fear floods and typhoons because it is elevated. And the weather is cool, just like in Tagaytay unlike in Buli where we were so congested)," she says.

In turn, their vacated areas will be protected by the local government from being inhabited by other informal settlers through the establishment of greenbelts, community gardens, and other uses.

## No longer afraid

Vilna's new home is a 26-square meter core house with a lot area of 36 sq.m. The Dreamland community is made up of several row houses of the same size. "*Ang nakakapagpasaya sa amin ay iyong aming panibagong pamumuhay at iyong hindi na ako kinakabahan lagi. E noon, pag sa riles, pag lalabas ako, nakakatakot pag daan ng tren* (We feel so happy with the change in environment and I no longer feel afraid for my safety. But before, in my old home near the Muntinlupa railways, whenever I left the house, I always got nervous when a train passed by)," she adds.

At the Muntinlupa, railways site, the train passes every 30 minutes on weekdays and every hour on weekends.

Twenty years ago, her then two-year-old daughter was almost run over by a train. The daughter now has a family of her own. Vilna's own husband Rene was almost sideswiped by a passing train just two years ago when he carried a child out of the train's way. Both Rene and the child went unscathed but only by a hair's breadth, she said.

"*Nagpapasalamat kami sa* ADB *dahil kami ang napili na magbenepisyo sa dinami-dami ng* depressed area. *Malaking biyaya na napili kami* (We are thankful to ADB that we were chosen as a beneficiary out of so many depressed areas We are so blessed)," says Vilna.

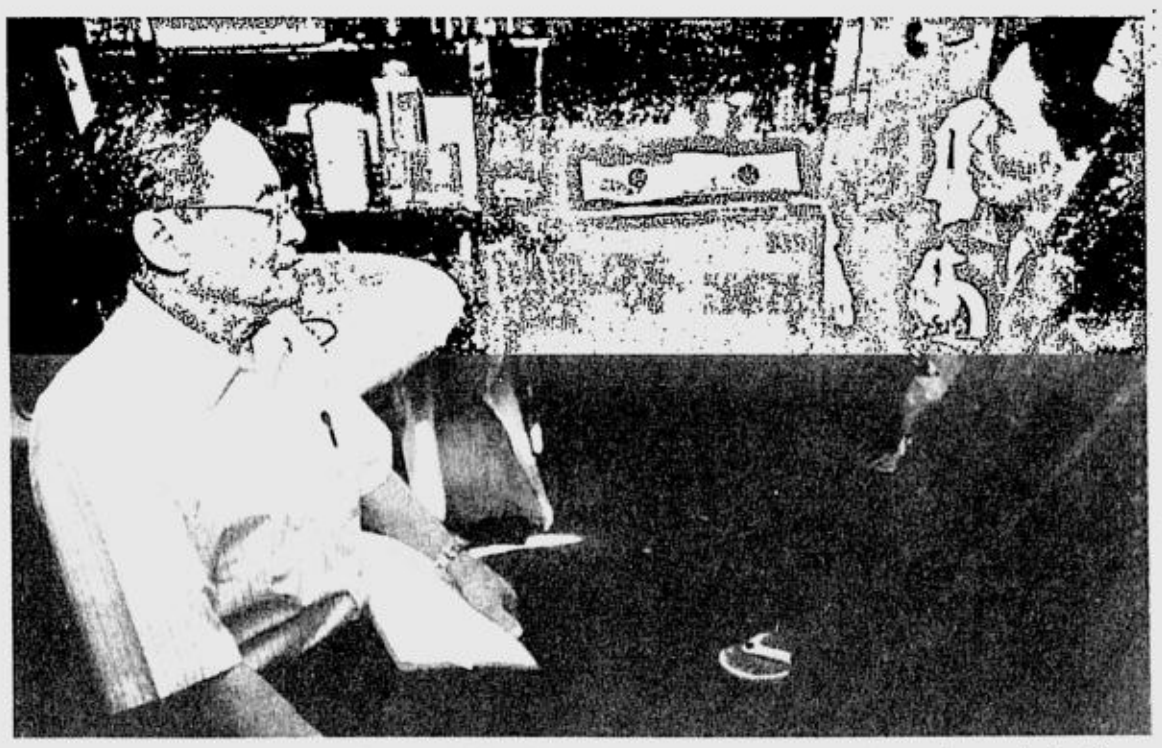
In her new home, she crochets blouses, bags and other novelty items for a living. She also sells purified water in the community. Her husband is a construction worker and is a volunteer member of the barangay police. They have six children.

The project is a model for the relocation of informal settlers. Residents are given livelihood opportunities, including access to jobs in the city, new job opportunities at the relocation site, and access to credit. There is bridge financing for off-site land purchase under the Government's Community Mortgage Program. Basic services such as water supply, sanitation, and roads are also being financed. There are sustainable revolving funds for housing construction, livelihood and micro enterprise development loans for beneficiaries, which when repaid will be extended to additional communities.

## Self-help approach

The project adopted a new self-help and community-based approach to the relocation of informal settlers by establishing a cooperative relationship among local government units, nongovernment organizations, and people's organizations in both the sending and receiving municipalities. This aims to avert economic dislocation among the community.

Two urban poor communities in Buli and Cupang in Muntinlupa City, composed of 427 families out of an estimated 9,000 to 12,000 households who lived along the tracks, are being resettled in this integrated urban development project. The communities are Maralitang Nagkakaisa sa Tramo Buli (Manatra) and Cupang Tramo Neighborhood Association (CTNA).



ADB PRESIDENT Tadao Chino listens to Vilna in her old home near the Muntinlupa railways during his April 2002 visit.

"The new community at Dreamland Heights provides a decent, well equipped living setting without the constant danger from passing trains," says Michael Lindfield, an ADB Senior Housing and Urban Development Specialist. "To ensure the project's success, it was shaped by the beneficiaries themselves and not imposed on them," he added.

Besides reducing poverty in the informal communities of Muntinlupa City, the JFPR project will provide guidance to a $50-million ADB loan project on Metro Manila Urban Services for the Poor.

The total cost of the Muntinlupa project is $1.2 million equivalent. The Muntinlupa City local government provided $200,000 equivalent for land purchase, site development and housing construction. The executing agency is the Department of Social Welfare and Development while the Muntinlupa Development Foundation (MDF) is the implementing agency. The project was also made possible in partnership with the National Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, and the Municipal Government of San Pedro, Laguna, in coordination with the HUDCC, Department of Education and Department of Finance.

In August 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the Muntinlupa railways site to witness the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Philippine Government and ADB to kick off the project. The JFPR was set up in 2000 with an initial contribution of 10 billion yen (about $90 million). Total contributions now stand at almost $327 million for the fund, which is supporting 49 projects in 18 countries around Asia and the Pacific, with over 20 more in the pipeline. The fund supports projects that directly provide relief measures, improve services and facilities for poorer population groups, and apply new approaches, particularly in the social sectors.

# From selling sago't gulaman to creating educational toys

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

EVEN as a young girl, Racy Rachel Salvacion declares she was already a "*negosyante*." She recalls selling anything from *sago't gulaman* in front of their house, to ribbons and chocolates in high school to putting up a souvenir shop in Corregidor while in college.

Today, Racy is at the helm of Ten's Woodworks, a family-owned business that makes wood-based products, particularly educational toys.

Racy, a graduate of business administration, major in computer applications, from the DLSU-College of St. Benilde, worked at Citibank after college but resigned after seven months to pursue her true "calling"—setting up a business.

## Containers for packaging

In 1997, she joined bazaars selling wooden containers. She did well and made it a full-time job. In 1998, Ten's Woodworks was born.

"We really started by making wooden containers for packaging like buckets and crates," Racy shares. These items became a hit and soon, orders for containers for corporate giveaways from big companies started to come in.

Racy considers 2002 as the peak of the business and laments a decline in 2003. This, however, did not dampen her entrepreneurial spirit but inspired her to obtain a Master in Entrepreneurship, which she finished this month, at the Asian Institute of Management.

She shares that her studies furthered her understanding of the ins and outs of the trade and deepened her vision for her business. Ten's Woodworks is now evolving from making wooden containers for packaging to manufacturing educational toys using wood and, eventually, other materials.

"After further industry analysis, I saw the need for these kinds of products. We will now be concentrating on toys and learning materials and help contribute to the learning development of the children," Racy explains.

## Product development

But coming up with new products is not an easy task. As Racy stresses, they are not only after the profit but want to give customers the best quality of the products they make. Their product development is very intensive. They have educational consultants and have tied-up with different schools to ensure the effectiveness of the toys.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Racy also adds they conduct seminars and invite teachers to critique the toys and to get new ideas.

"We make sure that teachers get to check the toys' educational benefits before we introduce them to the market. *Medyo matagal 'yung* product development *namin* because we make it a point that our products are acceptable to teachers and recommended age," explains Racy.

Parents are also their target market. Says Racy: "I will make it an advocacy to teach and educate parents not just to buy toys without value."

She adds that one of their success factors is they help parents choose the right toys for their kids. "We tell them if a particular toy, [which they happen to like] is not suited for their kid's age. So, we're not only concerned about generating sales. We suggest and give ideas on what is best."

She says they also have tie-ups with psychologists and therapists to help determine the right toys to recommend to parents.

## Product lines

One of the saleable items is the roller coaster, which helps kids develop hand-eye coordination as they place the colorful worm on top of the roller coaster tower and watch it go down the zig-zag path. Ten's Woodworks has a wide variety of product lines that are priced from as low as P10 to as high as P950. Even adults like some of their toys like the brain teasers line which include Crazy Cubes, T Puzzle and Mind Sticks.

Racy points out one of their unique selling propositions is having Filipino-inspired toys. The Makabayan toys include Sagisag Puzzles, a colorful puzzle with the different Philippine national symbols depicted in a typical barrio scene, and the Filipino Family Hand Puppets, which are made of cloth and are dressed in Filipino costumes.

Also available are wooden Tic Tac Toe game boards, model car collections such as the Pinoy Jeepney and many others. They also sell wooden toy crates for easy storage of toys.

Peak seasons for sales are Christmas and start of the school year.

Ten's Woodworks uses recycled palo china but soon expand its material base.

"In the next five years we would be needing to diversify. We will be diversifying the materials that we use because we feel *na kung mas malawak yung* objective *namin* to be a major contributor in the development of the children we should not limit ourselves to selling wood. It will be part of it but we will also be using indigenous materials from different regions, *kung ano'ng makita namin na pwedeng maging* toys. And recycled materials like *tela* and other scrap materials," says Racy. This way, she adds, they will not only contribute to education but also to the environment.

Although they have a space in Glorietta every December since 1998 it was only last year that they were given a regular space there. Today, aside from the Glorietta store, Ten's Woodwork's has also opened in Market! Market! and have been getting positive feedback from customers.

"When we first started in Glorietta, they knew us only as a woodworks store. But now we are in the process of shifting our positioning there to educational toys. Our store in Market! Market! has already positioned itself as producer of educational toys," she adds.

## Hands-on

Racy, the eldest of five siblings, is very hands-on with the business. She takes care of operations and HR, her sister Cyra helps in product design and marketing while mom Cynthia, handles the financial aspect of the business.

Racy also sees to it she visits schools who bought their products to get their feedback and suggestions. Sometimes she even sits in with the class and sees how teachers implement the sample lesson plan they provide together with the educational toys. This way she gets to know first-hand what's effective and what needs to be improved.

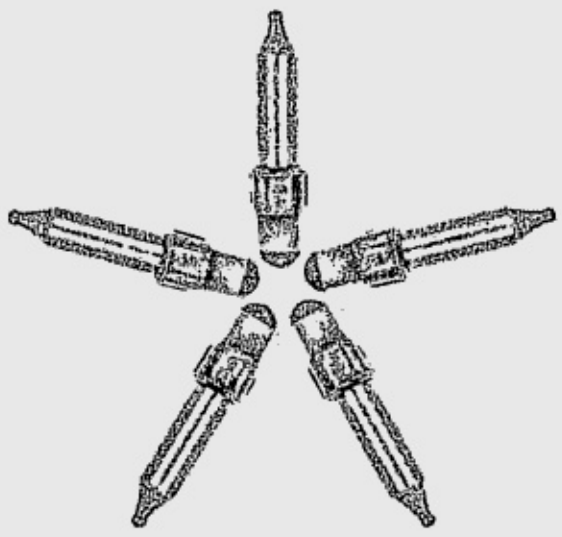
Racy, 29, also makes sure to take care of her workers some of whom have been with them since the start of the business. She hires even high school graduates and always considers their welfare. In fact, this young entrepreneur has lots of big dreams not only for her business but also for her staff. Part of her business plan is to give her workers part ownership of the company in the years to come. She instills in them the value of teamwork and always reminds them of the company's mission-vision: To be a major contributor in the total development of the Filipino children.

"*Ang* logic *ko kasi* pyramid, *hindi lang ako ang aakyat, lahat tayo ... ayoko mag*-revolve *lang sa akin 'yung negosyo*, team work is very important. It's not only me who will get rich, but all of us," explains Racy.

"I taught them how to drive, not just passengers in the highways of life. *Hindi ko lang sila isasama sa sarili kong sasakyan, ambisyon kong magkasariling sasakyan rin sila*," adds Racy.

RACHEL Salvacion gave up a banking post to pursue a calling to be an entrepreneur.

This Christmas season, despite the many lights around us, may we always look to that light that leads us home.



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# NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**of DTI agencies located at the Main Building (361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City)**

DTI offices in other buildings have retained their old phone numbers.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

| Office | Number |
|---|---|
| Trade Regulations Group (CWTRG) | 751-40-25 |
| Office of the Assistant Secretary for Consumer Welfare & Trade Regulations Group (CWTRG) | 751-34-37 / 890-25-21 |
| Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations Group (ROG) | 751-33-34 / 751-33-95 |
| Office of the Head of the Management Services & Support Group (MSSG) | 751-59-84 |
| DTI-NCR-Business Name Registration Center (BNRS) | 751-31-90 / 751-31-92<br>751-03-84 local 2124 |
| **Bureau of Trade Regulation & Consumer Protection (BTRCP)** | |
| *Consumer Welfare Division* | 897-73-84<br>751-03-84 local 2223 |
| **Bureau of Domestic Trade (BDT)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-32-23 |
| *Supply Chain Management Division* | 751-32-27<br>751-03-84 local 2242 |
| *Market Information Division* | 751-32-28<br>751-03-84 LOCAL 2240 |
| *Market Development Division* | 751-32-29<br>751-03-84 local 2243/2244 |
| **Philippine Shippers' Bureau (PSB)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-33-04 |
| *Registration & Accreditation Division* | 751-33-07 |
| *Shipping Negotiation Division* | 751-33-08 |
| *Freight Center* | 751-33-09 |
| **Bureau of Product Standards (BPS)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-31-23 |
| *Standards Development Program* | 751-47-35 |
| *Standards Promotion & Media Relations* | 751-47-48 |
| *Product Certification Program* | 751-47-24 |
| *Standards Information Services* | 751-47-36 |
| *Laboratory Accreditation Scheme* | 751-47-07 |
| **Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-32-60 |
| *Office of the Assistant Director* | 751-32-61 |
| *ASEAN Desk* | 751-03-84 local 2364/2371 |
| *Bilateral Relations Division* | 751-03-84 local 2370/2368 |
| *WTO Desk* | 751-03-84 local 2372/2362 |
| *APEC Desk* | 751-03-84 local 2367/2376 |
| *Receiving Area* | 751-03-84 local 2360/2375 |
| **National Consumer Affairs Council (NCAC)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-47-83 |
| **Women Business Council Phils. (WBCP)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-33-85 |
| **Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-47-75 |
| *Secretary* | 751-47-76 |
| *Counselling & Litigation Division* | 751-47-73 |
| *Legislation & Documentation Division* | 751-47-71 |
| **Trade & Industry Information Center (TIIC)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-31-96 |
| *Frontline Services & Documentation Division* | 897-53-09 |
| *Library* | 751-03-84 local 2210/2211 |
| **Office of Special Concern (OSC)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-59-25 |
| *Special Project Research & Development Division* | 751-59-39 |
| *Special Project Coordination & Monitoring Division* | 751-59-40 |
| **Human Resource Development Service (HRDS)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-31-36 |
| *Manpower Planning & Evaluation Division* | 751-31-32 |
| *Training & Development Division* | 751-03-84 local 2611 |
| **Management Information Service (MIS)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-31-37 |
| *Help Desk Support* | 751-31-40 |
| *Systems Plan & Policy Implementation* | 751-31-41 |
| *Systems Development* | 751-31-42 |
| *System & Network Administration* | 751-31-43 |
| *Web Team* | 751-31-44 |
| *Maintenance & Trouble Shooting* | 751-03-84 local 2555 |
| **Financial Management Service (FMS)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-32-15 |
| *Budget Division* | 751-03-84 local 2475 |
| *Accounting Division* | 751-03-84 local 2482 |
| *Receiving/Processing Section* | 751-03-84 local 2465 |
| *Remittance Section* | 751-03-84 local 2470 |
| **General Administrative Service (GAS)** | |
| *Office of the Director* | 751-32-40 |
| *Personnel Division* | 751-03-84 local 3243/3244 |
| *General Services Division* | 751-03-84 local 2430/2432 |
| *Support Section* | 751-03-84 local 2431 |
| *Supply Section* | 751-03-84 local 4996 |
| *Cashier Section* | 751-03-84 local 2438 |
| *Motorpool Section* | 751-03-84 local 2105 |
| *Records Section* | 751-03-84 local 2434 |
| **DTI - Commission on Audit (COA)** | |
| *Office of the Resident Auditor* | 751-55-56 |

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY Trade and Industry Bldg., 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
http://www.dti.gov.ph E-mail: webmail@dti.dti.gov.ph Trunkline 7510-384 or 7510-DTI

# ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK-JAPAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**(funded by the Government of Japan)**

Qualified citizens of developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank, who intend to pursue post-graduate studies in economics, management, science and technology, and other development-related fields are invited to apply for scholarships under the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program. It is anticipated that upon successful completion of their graduate studies under the Program, the scholars should return to their countries and contribute to its socio-economic development. Scholarships are awarded for graduate studies at designated institutions in courses of study approved by ADB. The Program especially welcomes women applicants who are qualified but have limited financial means to obtain university education.

**THE SCHOLARSHIPS: LEVEL OF EDUCATION:** Post-graduate (Diploma, Masters and Doctorate degrees); **DURATION:** From one to two years; **COVERAGE:** Tuition fees, books, subsistence and housing allowance, insurance, economy airfare, and research subsidy

**ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS:**

1. AUSTRALIA—NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES / AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY .
2. CHINA,PEOPLE'S REPULIC OF—UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG .
3. INDIA—INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI .
4. JAPAN—INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN, NAGOYA UNIVERSITY (Graduate School of International Development), KEIO UNIVERSITY (International Graduate Programs on Advanced Science and Technology), NATIONAL GRADUATE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES, RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY (Master in Economics), SAITAMA UNIVERSITY. (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO (Department of Civil Engineering, School of International Health, Institute of Environmental Studies, and Department of Urban Engineering).
4. NEW ZEALAND—UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND.
5. PAKISTAN—LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES.
6. PHILIPPINES—ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE / UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN LOS BAÑOS.
7. SINGAPORE—NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE.
8. THAILAND—ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY.
9. USA—EAST-WEST CENTER.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** Prospective applicants must: be a citizen of an ADB developing member country, be proficient in oral and written English communication skills to be able to pursue studies, have at least two years work experience, have gained admission to an approved course in a designated institution, be in good health, not more than 35 years old at the time of application. (Staff of ADB and the designated institutions and their close relatives are not eligible to apply).

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants should: obtain application forms from the designated institutions of their choice; submit the completed application form and required documentation to the Institution, indicate on the application form that the applicant wishes to be considered for an Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship. (From among those admitted by the institutions, ADB will select candidates for award of scholarships. A separate application to ADB is not necessary).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE ADB-JSP website: http://www.adb.org/jsp**

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

# INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes sts. (formerly Morayta st.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites interested bidders to apply for:

| Items to Bid for 2004 requirements | Approved Budget for the Contract | Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference | Non-Refundable Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards) (6 Months) | P 7,500,000.00 Not less than 250,000 pcs. (Supply for 6 Months) at P30.00 per card | January 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg. | P 1,000.00 |
| Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs) | P 313,600.00 Not less than 180,229 pcs. At P1.74 per sheet of Bookpaper | January 7, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg. | P 1,000.00 |
| Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets | P 3,644,200.00 Not less than 1,370,000 pcs. at P2.66 per sheet of OCR paper | January 10, 2005 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg. | P 1,000.00 |

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods at the Office of the BAC Chairperson, Commissioner Leonor Tripon-Rosero, 2nd floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on **December 20, 2004**. Deadline for submission of registration requirements shall be at 5:00 p.m. on **January 3, 2005**. Issuance of Certification of registration to bidders for procurement of goods shall be on **January 10, 2005**.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on **December 20, 2004** from the Office of the BAC Chairperson with a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GRPA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is a prima facie evidence of collusion between the officials or employees of the Commission and/or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition; if the BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures; or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Chairperson

(PDI-Dec. 19 & 26, 2004)

# Philippine TIPS

TUBERCULOSIS INITIATIVES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

## Request for Proposal

Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (Philippine TIPS), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-02-00031 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc., is soliciting offers for the supply of services of the

**Formulation of Resource Generation Strategy for PhilCAT**

**Background:** Philippine TIPS has forged partnership and extended its technical assistance to the Philippines Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT) to foster its goals in promoting collaboration for TB control in the Philippines. The Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis is a non-profit organization with 61 current members. It plays a significant role in building a strong coalition to influence policies and programs on TB control and advocate for behavior change of private physicians as regards to proper TB treatment and build capacity among providers to practice DOTS. The coalition is designed to encourage collective efforts for a TB control agenda, communication among members, and sharing of resources. PhilCAT is currently developing its technical and organizational capabilities, and its strategies for sustainability to enable it to fulfill more expediently and effectively its mission of promoting and nurturing collaboration toward TB in the Philippines. The Organizational Development is composed of seven (7) committees of which it includes the Resource Management Committee. The committee needs assistance to come up with a Resource Generation Strategy for PhilCAT to strengthen its financial capacity. The Resource Generation Strategy will enhance the financial status of PhilCAT to fulfill its goal and mission for TB control

**Summary of Terms of Reference:** To Create a Resource Generation and Sustainability Plan and to develop appropriate policies for resource development for PhilCAT

**Qualification requirements:**

1. Able to demonstrate at least 3+ years of successful resource development experience
2. Must be a Philippine-registered institution or organization based in the Philippines, majority shares of which are owned by Filipino or US citizens who are bona fide legal residents;
3. Has been operating for three (3) consecutive years as of January 2004; and,
4. Must have a positive net worth for the year 2003.

To know more about the Philippine TIPS Project and its initiatives, please visit the Philippine TIPS website at www.philtips.com. For a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP-TIPS-TO-09), please get in touch with Ms. Cristina M. Avila, PhilTIPS Procurement Specialist at (02) 687-7135. As this is an urgent requirement, the deadline for submission of proposal is on January 12, 2005.


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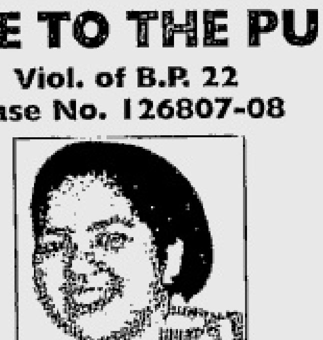
# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**Viol. of B.P. 22**
**Case No. 126807-08**



**Mrs. THEPANIE BALANE**

Anyone who can give the whereabouts of Mrs. THEPANIE BALANE presently residing at c/o RANDOLF BALANE Lot 63, Pound St. North Fairview, Quezon City. Leading to her arrest. Please contact STAR 0917-5350806 or you may call ATTY. EDMUND ABESAMES 687-1316 or 6871321.

(PDI – December 19, 2004)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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
THE CITY OF OLONGAPO
Olongapo City Hall
Rizal Avenue, Olongapo City

## INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The City of Olongapo is inviting interested parties to qualify and bid for the Olongapo City Public Utilities Department Modernization Build-Operate-Transfer/Private Sector Participation Project ("Project")

The Project will be implemented as a Contract-Add Operate (CAO) scheme under the BOT Law and will comprise (1) the performance of rehabilitation works on the City-owned electric power distribution assets; (2) the planning, financing, design, engineering, construction, installation, testing, and commissioning of new electric power distribution facilities, and (3) the management, operation, repair and maintenance of the integrated distribution system by the winning bidder/project proponent for a concession period of 25 years. The upgraded and rehabilitated power distribution system including all new facilities shall be transferred to the City, at no cost, at the end of said period

The competitive bidding for the Project will be conducted in accordance with the procurement guidelines of the BOT Law (Republic Act No. 6957, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The bidding will follow the rules prescribed for the Simultaneous Qualification of Bidders or the Three Envelope System, as defined in the IRR

The Tender Documents (consisting of the Information Memorandum, Instructions to Bidders, Bid Forms and Draft Agreement) may be obtained from the Public Utilities Department, Olongapo City Hall, Rizal Avenue, Olongapo City, starting on *December 15, 2004* up to *January 10, 2005* upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Fifty Thousand Pesos** *(Php 50,000)*. Only those who purchased the Tender Documents will be qualified to submit bids or proposals

Bidders are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on *January 21, 2005*.

The deadline for the submission of bids or proposals is on *March 31, 2005*

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the City.

The City also assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their bids or proposals

(Sgd.) MANUEL QUIJANO
*Chairman - Bids and Awards Committee*

(PDI - Dec 12, 19 & 26, 2004)

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*"On feast of the Blessed Lady of Candles, God gave us the brightest star which for eighty-four years had unflickeringly glowed to light our paths ..."*

## Candelaria "Liling" Narvaez Erasmo

**(Maragondon, Cavite)**

*February 2, 1920 – December 16, 2004*

Wife of the late **Antero T. Erasmo** (†); her daughters **Renilda** and **Ronette**; sons-in-law **Greg Braganza** and **Philip Jornacion**; grandchildren; **Gwen** and **Joey, Peachy, Ilyn, Cookie, Ludwig, Bambam** and **Giolo**; sisters, brothers and in-laws; **Pelagia** (†), **Jaime** (†) and **Nenita** (†), **Dominador** (†) and **Lilia, Juan** (†) and **Gloria, Guillermo** and **Caridad** (†), **Laura** and **Evelito Elento** (†), nephews, nieces and stepchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Assumption Church (PIC) Maragondon Cavite.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 after the 2 p.m. requiem Mass at the Aglipayan Cemetery.

*God took her home, it was His will, but in our hearts she liveth still. . . .*

**To Commemorate the**
**SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
**of**

## Norma Tuason Chua

**(March 15, 1946 – December 20, 2002)**

*Mass will be offered for the eternal repose of her soul on Monday, 20 December 2004 at the following churches:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Monasterio de Santa Clara – Katipunan Road, Quezon City | 6:00 a.m. |
| Santuario de San Antonio – Forbes Park, Makati City | 6:15 a.m. |
| National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes – Retiro Street, Quezon City | 6:30 a.m. |
| San Agustin Church – Intramuros, Manila | 6:30 a.m. |
| Malate Catholic Church – Malate, Manila | 7:00 a.m. |
| Manila Metropolitan Cathedral – Intramuros, Manila | 7:30 a.m. |
| Santo Domingo Parish – Quezon Avenue, Quezon City | 12:00 noon |
| Christ the King Church – E. Rodriguez Boulevard, Quezon City | 6:00 p.m. |
| Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel – New Manila, Quezon City | 6:00 p.m. |
| Santuario de San Pedro Bautista – San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City | 6:00 p.m. |
| Saint John Bosco Parish – Arnaiz Street, Makati City | 6:00 p.m. |
| Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish – Bel-Air II, Makati City | 6:30 p.m. |
| Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat – Mendiola, Manila | 8:30 p.m. |

Her loving husband, **Eddie**, and daughter, **Eileen**, request the relatives, friends, and people whose lives she has touched to offer a prayer for her soul.

Her family also conveys sincere appreciation and gratitude to all who sympathized, remember, offer mass and prayers and keep **Norma** alive in their memories and hearts.

*"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.*
*And, let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen"*

## Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

*Guillerma Eugenio de Guzman*

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 9, 2004*

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

**I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**
John 14:6

## Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

**Ernesto Barata De Guia**

*(Peacefully joined our Lord on 15th of November 2004)*

would like to thank all those who condoled with us, visited us, offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages, attended the services and funeral rites, and comforted us during the hour of our bereavement.
May the Lord bless you all...

# KC PEREZ DE VENECIA

(April 6, 1988 – December 17, 2004)

Beloved daughter to **Speaker Jose** and **Georgina de Venecia**, wonderful sister to **Alexandra Haner, Leslie Norton, Vivian Garcia, Jose de Venecia III, Carissa Cruz, Felipe Cruz III**, best friend and sister to **Christopher de Venecia** and granddaughter to **Azucena Vera Perez**, classmates, precious niece, member of the cool cousin group *The Bulilit Gang* and cherished friend.

A fun-loving, passionate, sweet, intelligent girl who lived life to the fullest. She spoke her mind freely and loved with all her heart. Please pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati. Interment will be on December 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the KC de Venecia Foundation.

Our Dearly Beloved

## CRESENCIA 'Neng' QUINES AGAS

**of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur; Kamias, Quezon City and New York, U.S.A.**

*Peacefully joined our Lord on December 17, 2004 at the age of 85.*

Her son **Susano** and daughter-in-law **Belen Real**; grandchildren **Mario & Gabriel** and other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family Parish Church, K-1 corner K-7, Kamias, Quezon City.

Cremation to be announced later.

## AMALIA QUEVEDO STAGGS

of Sarrat, Ilocos Norte

Born on November 22, 1910

*Peacefully joined our Creator on December 13, 2004.*

Her son **Bobby Staggs** and daughter-in-law **Vita Staggs**; grandchildren **Maureen, Henry, Brian, Denise, Ann, Eileen** and **Hillard** request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at their residence in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at Sarrat Public Cemetery.

**Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.** Matthew 10:39

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# CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

**INVITATION TO RE-BID**

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all interested bidders to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the re-bidding of the following requirement, viz.

**One (1) Unit Reconditioned Japan Surplus Wheel Loader**

The list of pre-qualification requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax # (035) 225-2433.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on December 21, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO while the submission and opening of bids is scheduled on January 6, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. also at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd) ATTY. ISMAEL MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI – December 12 & 19, 2004)

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with **INTERNATIONAL QUALITY MANPOWER SERVICES, INC. (I.Q.MAN).**

1. Eduardo C. Ablazo — effective 12-November-04
2. Alberto N. Clemente — effective 30-November-04

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

**(For POEA purposes only)**

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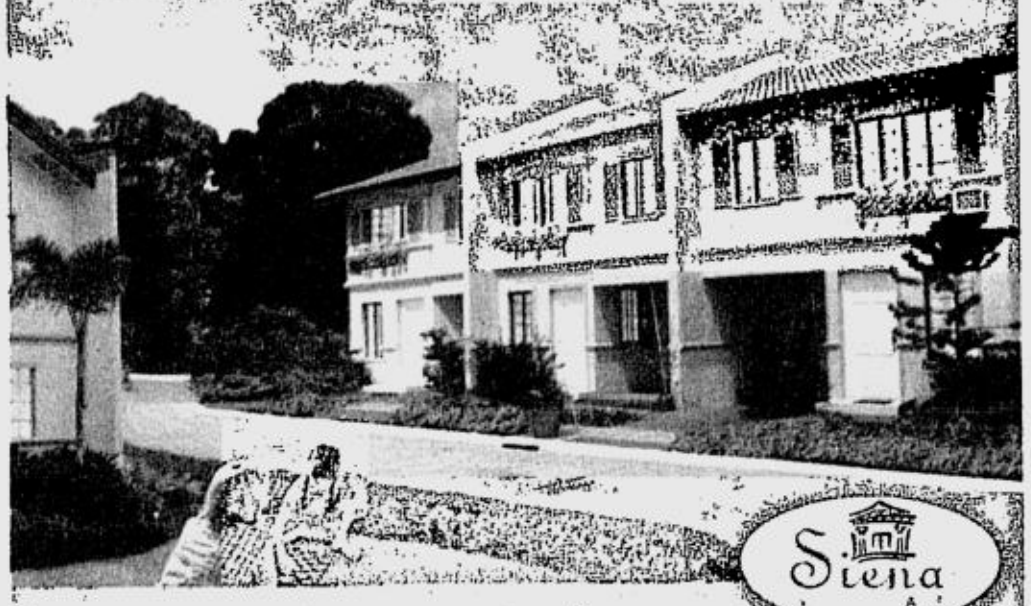

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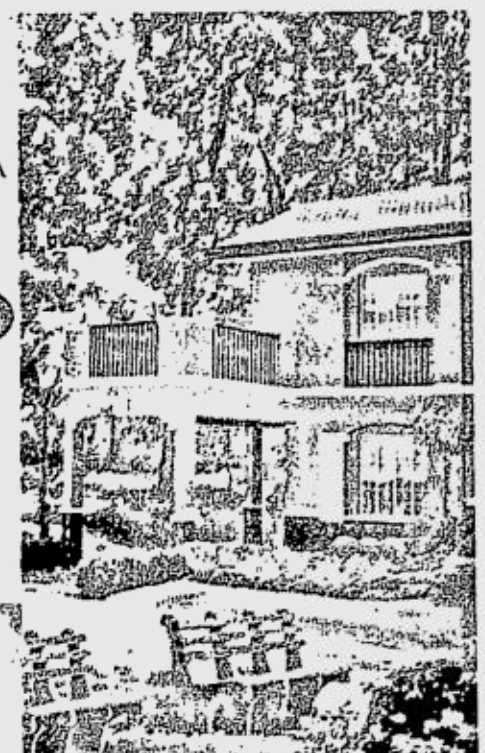

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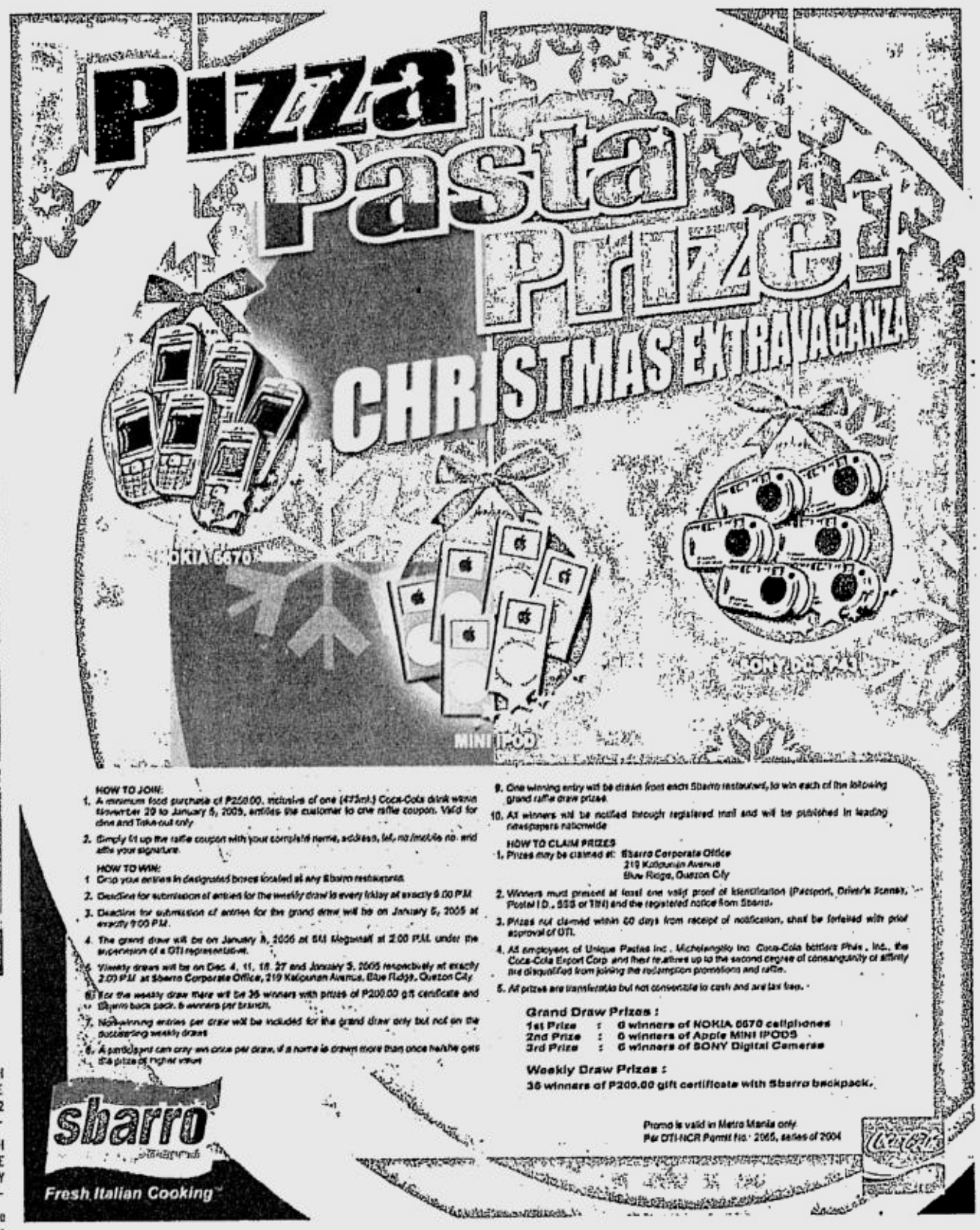


HOW TO JOIN:
1. A minimum food purchase of P250.00, inclusive of one (475ml.) Coca-Cola drink worth November 29 to January 5, 2005, entitles the customer to one raffle coupon. Valid for dine and Take-out only
2. Simply fill up the raffle coupon with your complete name, address, tel. no./mobile no. and affix your signature.

HOW TO WIN:
1. Drop your entries in designated boxes located at any Sbarro restaurants.
2. Deadline for submission of entries for the weekly draw is every Friday at exactly 9:00 PM.
3. Deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw will be on January 5, 2005 at exactly 9:00 PM.
4. The grand draw will be on January 8, 2005 at SM Megamall at 2:00 PM under the supervision of a DTI representative.
5. Weekly draws will be on Dec. 4, 11, 18, 27 and January 3, 2005 respectively at exactly 2:00 PM at Sbarro Corporate Office, 219 Kalayaan Avenue, Blue Ridge, Quezon City
6. For the weekly draw there will be 35 winners with prizes of P200.00 gift certificate and Sbarro back pack. 5 winners per branch.
7. Non-winning entries per draw will be included for the grand draw only but not on the succeeding weekly draws
8. A participant can only win once per draw, if a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of higher value
9. One winning entry will be drawn from each Sbarro restaurant, to win each of the following grand raffle draw prizes.
10. All winners will be notified through registered mail and will be published in leading newspapers nationwide

HOW TO CLAIM PRIZES
1. Prizes may be claimed at: Sbarro Corporate Office 219 Kalayaan Avenue Blue Ridge, Quezon City
2. Winners must present at least one valid proof of identification (Passport, Driver's license, Postal I.D., SSS or TIN) and the registered notice from Sbarro.
3. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification, shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
4. All employees of Unique Pastas Inc., Michelangelo Inc. Coca-Cola bottlers Phils., Inc., the Coca-Cola Export Corp. and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the redemption promotions and raffle.
5. All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash and are tax free.

Grand Draw Prizes :
1st Prize : 6 winners of NOKIA 6670 cellphones
2nd Prize : 6 winners of Apple MINI IPOD5
3rd Prize : 6 winners of SONY Digital Cameras

Weekly Draw Prizes :
35 winners of P200.00 gift certificate with Sbarro backpack.

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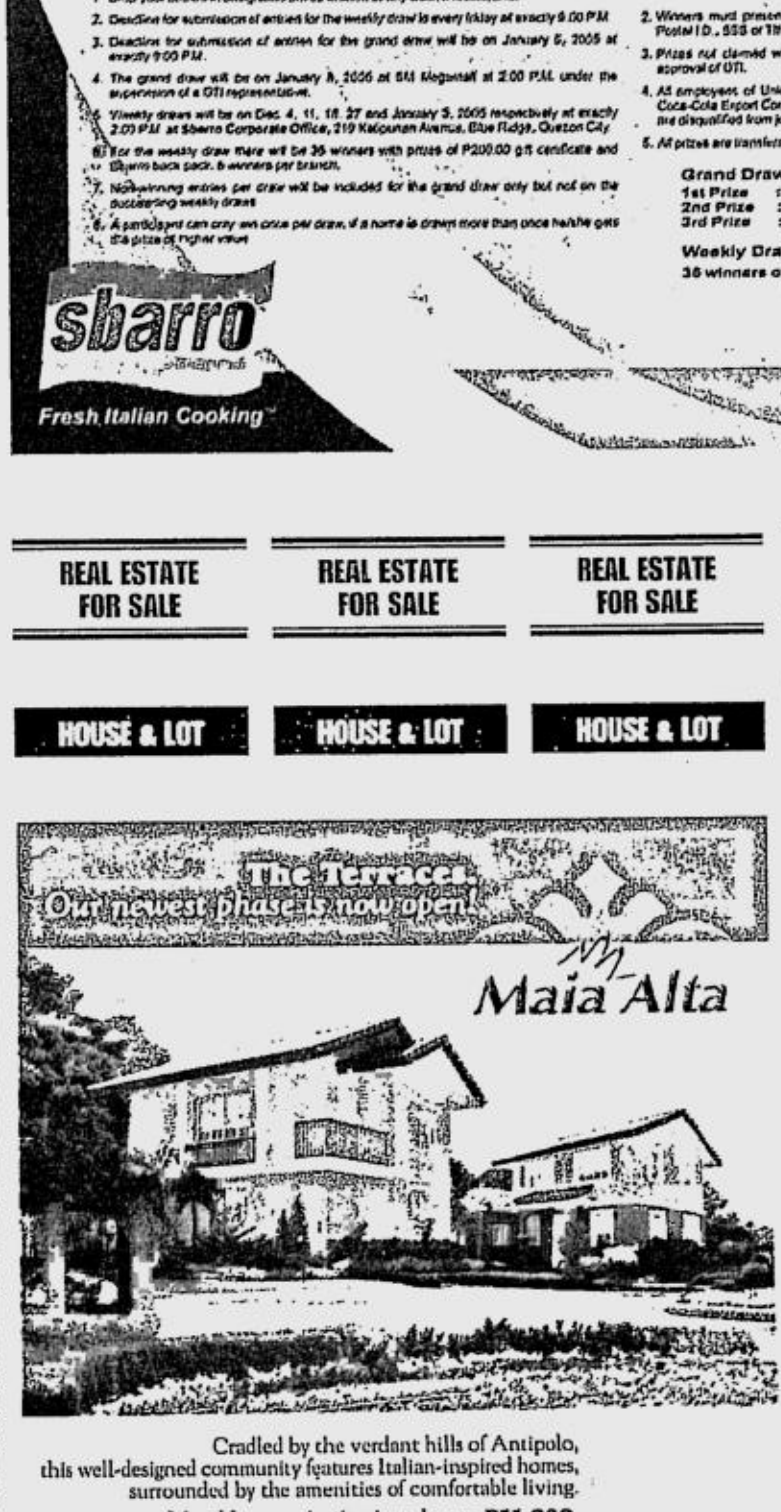


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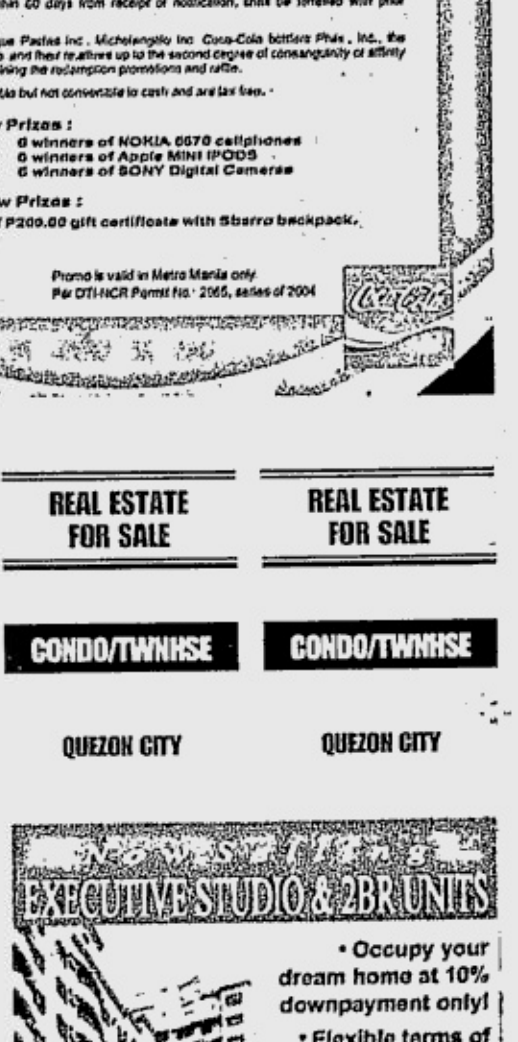


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Showroom open daily 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
OPEN HOUSE EVERY WEEKEND
NOW READY FOR OCCUPANCY!
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**QUEZON CITY**

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Tel. 9125847 / 09178586811

**HOUSE & LOT**

**QUEZON CITY**

New Accessible Fairview 2.2M 9384088 ; 09202458375

P5.5M Bnew nr Cong. Ave 5BR 4TB attic 2CG #5 Narra St. Violago Phase3 Visayas Ave & 2.8M T. Sora nr U.P. 9322650 / 09228008313

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

#### MAKATI

**(1) Office/Residential Condo Unit for Sale (3.1M)**
4th & 5th Flrs. w/ Attic,
U-4/5-3 Sunshine Cond.
9633 Kamagong St., SA Village,
Makati City
Floor area of 111.60 square meters
For Inquiries contact:
Rey Jaucian - 8940012-13
Mobile No. 09193580236/
E-mail: rjaucian@pana.com.ph
Brokers are Welcome!

### HOUSE & LOT

#### RIZAL

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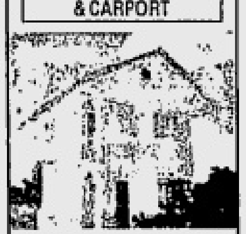
CAINTA RIZAL ANTIPOLO CITY
MEADOWS • SUNRISE
RODRIGUEZ RIZAL SAN MATEO RIZAL

3 BR 2 TB W/BATH TUB & CARPORT



2 BR 2 TB W/CARPORT
CALL:
911-26-96/ 912-28-74

#### BAGUIO

2Floors Unit Hse 700sqm Lot near John Hay, Ideal for 2 Families P8.9M 0921-7833564

#### BATANGAS

RUSH SALE AYALA PROPERTY STO TOMAS BAT. 364 SQM. HAUS N LOT ONLY 2.5M, MARKET VALUE 3M NEGO ADDED DISC. IF CASH •0918-9424538•

#### BULACAN

GROTTO AREA 225T 9390299

LA38.5 FA22 P-IBIG Down 5T M/A 2,378 09217377851 4563409

Meycauayan 2br 2tb 1cg P1.6M Bnew 0917-8550207

Near Grotto 650T 9372688

#### CAVITE

CANYON RANCH HOMES AT HILLTOP ROLLING TERRAIN FOR AS LOW AS 8K/MO CALL OR TEXT 09189337125

#### LAGUNA

BINAN RFO 400T 5201792

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

P700T 10% D/P RFO 1st class dev't Calamba 09194539350

#### MANDALUYONG

2BR 2TB w/parking Pioneer hilands P4.7M 825-4698

RUSH WACK WACK CONDO 1BR 1TB P1.5M FA 39m² 6374969 / 9103263 / 09178999797

#### MANILA

SN 'ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

#### MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort 10T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10%. D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15mln Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

ONE MCKINLEY THE FORT 2BR, GOLF COURSE VIEW RFO END OF THE YEAR 4 INQUIRIES 0918-9424538

RENT2OWN 9T/mo. Condo nr. Mkti 0922-8086855

RUSH FOR SALE Ayala Property The Columns Condominium Ayala cor Makati Ave T-2 21F with veranda 1prkg 2br 2tb assume balance 5.9M 09178423129

#### PASIG

VVERDE 3BR 1.5M T9124323

### COMML/RESDL

#### MAKATI

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### PASIG

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE. RESORT-TYPE, 1st Class 2-4BR P13T/ mo. or NoDP or 0% Bess • 0917-5234223

#### QUEZON CITY

BRAND NEW PROJECT 4 2STOREY W/ ATTIC 6830677

CUBAO P1.5M Terms 9126976

★B/new 3BR3TB mds rm 2cgrg 4388754 09228530530 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext

VALENCIA HILLS CONDO RES. New Mla Studio, 2BR, 3BR w/ Pkg 3M to 7M Tel. 750-8291 Ready for Occupancy

#### VARIED AREAS

Palm Tower - Makati Central Park - Pasay Residential, Comm'l. &Parkg, Look: Ruby Tel Nos: 8112517 to 19 Thru: Bank / Pag-Ibig

### LOT

#### KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA274m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### QUEZON CITY

Rd 20 Proj. 8, 1,418m²@ P14T/m² Cong. Ave Ext. 451m² @ 8T/m² Proj 6 nr SM Nrth 267m²@3.6M DBO 0917-8997547 Jona

#### RIZAL

145m²/144m² BIRMINGHAM Sunrise, San Mateo 4271125

1,500sqm Comml/Resdl San Mateo 475-1125 / 0917-8236522

2 LOTS 690sqm each • VALLEY GOLF ANTIPOLO • Inside golf course CALL: Juliet 8394576 (home) 8926978 (off.) 09177360194 Abel 8404834 (off.) 09162433639 09202760030

BINANGONAN SAN CARLOS II 450sqm P450T 6374969 / 9103263 / 09178999797

RICHMOND EXEC COMMERCIAL CAINTA 200m² P6T@ 164m² P5T@ Rush 9488240 / 6337371

#### SAN JUAN

Lopez Jaena Near Wilson P13M 425m² Rush 532-2422

#### OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

St. Martin Subd Lot18 San Vicente Silang 298m² Direct Buyer Only! 0918-9053204/0918-9190585

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5br P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### BUSINESS SPACE

OFC. SPACE FOR SALE 85.43sqm w/pkg. 3.3M Lovlste St. Salcedo Mkt PDCP Bank Bldg Call Rosa 750-8291 /0927-7996662

### MEMORIAL LOT

RUSH SALE Good Discount Columbary Vaults Call 578-2706

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

LA=2T NR TGAYTAY V.COOL P500/S.M. W/TREES 8740601

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

#### LAS PINAS

BFRV 2br 10K Util Gardn Grge 09209507332 • 8739969

#### MAKATI

31 Maclan St.2 stry 3BRW/A/C 35K o Alan 818-4277

#### MANDALUYONG

2Brms w 2TB in Private Compound Ask 4 Mandy at 533-92-25 or 0917-8340519

#### PARANAQUE

MARIMAR New 3BR 2TB Grg nr Skyway SM Blc 823-2865

#### QUEZON CITY

3BR SERRAMONTE VILLAS FILINVEST2 0917-7182116 JUN

Tndng Sora 2sty 3BR3TB blg grge P35T/mo. 2mos. advnce & 2 mos. dpct 0917-8997547

#### BATANGAS

Vacation House Batangas Seacoast P20,000/mo. Call Adams 0917-85149003 (043)-9312410 email: nona_adams @yahoo.com

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### MAKATI

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

NEW TWNHSE/3 UNITS/3FLRS /4BRS W/GRGE MULTI-USE: OFC /CLNC/RES/ 1103 DEL PAN ST. MKTI 872-3425 0916-3135877 Ed

Studio Makati P8,500 Call or Txt Nona 09178514903 •(043) 9312410

#### MANILA

1br Condo 0917-8463228

ROBINSON FAURA 564-2622

#### PASAY

PARK AVE 6.5T 1Br Leony 5511340 / 0918-9054127

#### PASIG

5 Pacific Plz. Ort. 100sqm 2BR 2TB 1Prkg w/Appls RFO By Appt. • 722-9294 / 0353

#### QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 2BR Furn P15T spacious good loc 6461603

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Vioy/Tintin 5277616

Studio Front of Ateneo & Miriam P9,500/mo. Call Nona Adams 09178514903

### APARTMENT

#### MAKATI

STUDIO Size 5T T870 65-41

#### MANILA

1BR Nr P. GIL 5634007 • 5891978

2401A Laura St. Pandacan 10K Commc'l Alan 818-4277

UP/DOWN 2BR BIG CALL 8425280 FOR APPT. GFORBES

#### MANDALUYONG

2BR Newly Painted Near Crossing EDSA Shaw Tel. 7470101 09186498019

#### QUEZON CITY

2BR 65-A Silencio St. Baruela Cmpd.Santol QC T-7137722

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### APARTMENT

#### SAN JUAN

A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

### WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Cubao fabshp 500m² 7257342

### ROOM & BOARD

120l Mla 7118679 / 7836781

1BR w/AC TB Mkt 8992149

BF Pque 8275345 / 8257524

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

### BEDSPACE

LDY Cvte 09178502059 Ruby

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

### BUSINESS RENTAL

Nr Trabajo Mrkt Samp. Mla 0917-8906317 • 749-7119

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

49SQM+12SQM PRKNG SPACE 2BR Call 5225997 / 0917-8142516 Babes Nazareno

One Beverly Place 3br Rent / Sale 180m² 728-4174

## OTHER REAL ESTATE

### REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKERS CEP 4382966

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

#### BMW

'99 MB100 P300T 360-9523

BMW316I Nov'01 Aqcrd Blue well kept C2 apprec 1.150M 0917-8111575/9270207

#### FORD

02 Ford EXP 0918-5860132

93 T. Corolla GLI 5216227

#### HYUNDAI

'96 GRACE P195T 360-9523

'98 H100 P230T 360-9523

#### KIA

'98 BESTA P240T 360-9523

#### MERCEDES

'97 E230 Black Elegance Imported, CASA - Maintained with Sunroof, 35Tkm. See to appreciate Call 0920-9040510

#### TOYOTA

Brand New RAV4 2004 4x2 5Spd Silver P950T DBO Call 0917-4115309 Looking for 1st Owner

Rush Sale! 93 Tyta GLI 09192197301

#### OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Terrano Safari Rvr Serena Delica Space Gear Estima Vanette Largo Elf Canter T-In 9120647 / 09178342020

#### SPECIAL CARS

Green 95 Range Rover 4.0 SE 1.3M 8943823 Sharon - Exec. Office

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969958

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

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### CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1-2% Car Loan 0917-8161276

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/out taking car 6567685

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

### BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

### COMPUTER

Ex-bank cmptr AMD Duron good cond 09183227519

### CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

RUSH SALE B-NEW G.E. CIRCUIT BREAKER 1,200AMPH 642-5188

### FURNITURE/ FIXTURES

CRSTLCHANDLIR9275444060

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

ANTI-ASTHMA 0917-8451373

Parlor/Sauna Eqpt 09178114261

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

### OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Xerox Machine 0917-8114261

### PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

DOG TRAINER 09213273180

•LAB PUPS• 09179987564• RUSH SALE! OWNER LEAVING

LABRADOR M/F Blk 10T@ F Choc.13T@ Pups 4shots / w/ PCCI papers Call 646-9266

Own d SMARTEST Dog Intown 2mo BORDER Collies w/Shts Dwormd P14T Only 0916-4963338

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•PUGS•SHARPEI 3725231

•• ROTT PUPS 0919-2758677

SHIH TZU PUPS 8123216

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1996 Mitsubishi Lancer/UFD-532
For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel.#878-54-57
(PDI - Dec. 18 & 19, 2004)

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### PETS

**PCCI**
331th & 29th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
METRO MARKET MARKET
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
TAGUIG, METRO MANILA
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. Johan Juslin
(Finland)
Ms. Narella Hammond
(Australia)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
Sunday,
Dec. 19, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting & Herding Grp
12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
CORPORATE SPONSORS:
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Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
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7220433 • 4123543

### MISCELLANEOUS

Indt'l Leather Gloves & Apron 4 Sale 0917-8550207

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EARN BIG weekly 18T/wk NO SELLING NO JOIN FEE 09155508798 / 09274219788

EARN P5T up/week HOW? share d bisnez 0920-9112910

carnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

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SALE/LEASE RESTAURANT Loc. in Dapitan St. infront UST, Good Location Good Furnitures & Equipment Nancy 731-3402, 0917-2067392

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PIZZA MAKING No Franchise Fee FREE Seminar Avail Crust ing Sauce Cheese Oven All Mtls. Call 2461786/ 2482051/2482041

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Hospital Batangas 09274584454

### DEALERSHIP

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- Analytical, keen to details, mature and can handle pressure
- Aggressive, meticulous and with good judgement
- Willing to work long hours and can cope up with different types of personality

**INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS (10)**
- 22-26 years old, M/F, with or without experience
- Analytical, keen to details, mature and can handle pressure
- Aggressive, meticulous and with good judgement
- Eager to learn and willing to work long hours
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cc:rogr2000@yahoo.com

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### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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DRIVER, Single Pref. Pasig, Mandaluyong, Pateros Resident • Call 6412444 Vicky

### FEMALE

Cook Yaya H'girl M'wife H-salary ForeignFamily. 8510250

LISCENSE NURSE 9298659

NANNY w/extng US Visa9124323

NEED YAYA MIDWIFE W/REFERENCES CALL 7500000 7504000

Salon Receptionist 687-0209

Wanted Female Licensed Med. Tech. Call (046) 4303456 /(0920)901-7936

Skin Care Training 532-2115

Direct Maid Yaya Mid-Wife Call 9957034

### MALE/FEMALE

Cook w/ 3 Yrs Experience and 2 Work References Call 7500000 7504000

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

Hairdressers Masseuse Manicurists for Alabang Salons/Spa 0917-5289825

Nursing student or RN For USA Medical Firm SCOTTSKIDOG@AOL.COM

OFC STAFF CRIS 09105890320

PROJECT MANAGER w/min. 15yrs experience
PROJECT ENGINEER 10yrs exp in Geothermal & Power Plant Installation
LICENSED CIVIL ENGR 35yrs old & above, willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila.
Please report to:
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PERSONAL

HOLY SPIRIT, THANK YOU!

Philippine Daily Inquirer
MESSAGEBOARD

# Christmas Post

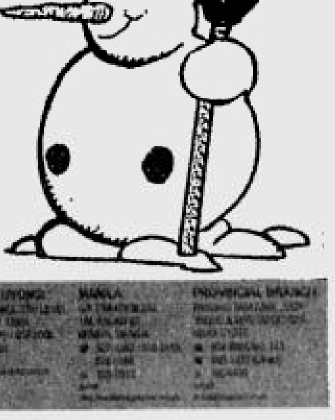
Let your thoughts be heard and add the warmth and essence of heartfelt feelings to all the special people in your life. On December 24, 25 and 26, 2004, publish your personal holiday greetings and messages in Inquirer's "Christmas Post" and share with them the joy of this holiday season.

A serving of sweetness and a load of good cheer sent with warmest wishes to family and friends so dear courtesy of Inquirer Classifieds.

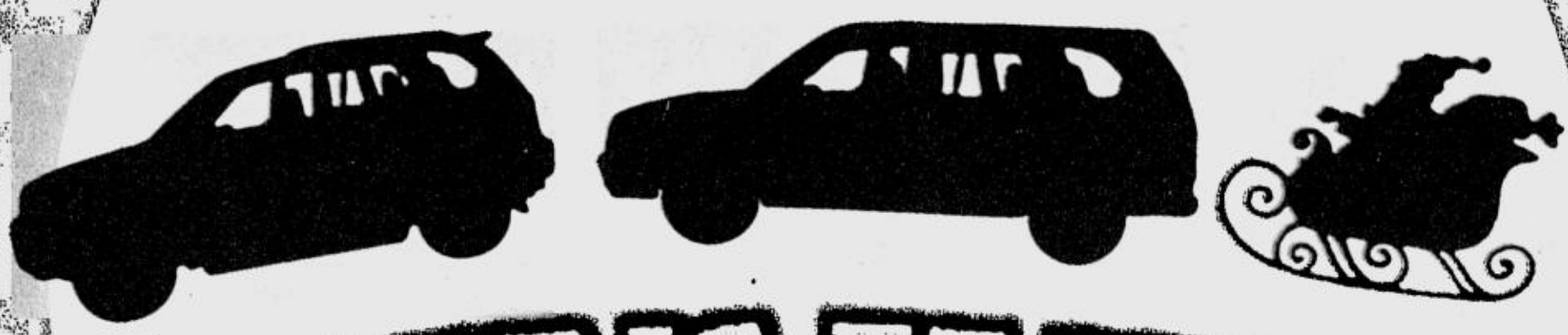
*Take advantage of this special offer at a discounted rate of P75.00 per line and P220 per column centimeter for box ads.*

*For more information, visit or call any Inquirer branch. Prices are VAT inclusive.*

*Deadline of Ad Placement: December 23, 2004.*



Passion



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AT ONLY
**80K!****
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| VX200 2.0 GAS A/T (Leather) | 970,000 | 100,000 | 74,016 | 51,016 | 40,423 | 29,124 | 23,763 | 20,152 | 18,901 |
| VX200 2.4 DSL M/T (Leather) | 958,000 | 100,000 | 75,612 | 52,119 | 41,267 | 29,731 | 24,258 | 20,587 | 19,309 |
| SR 1.8 GAS A/T | 896,000 | 100,000 | 67,342 | 46,416 | 36,782 | 26,500 | 21,622 | 18,335 | 17,196 |
| GSX 2.0 GAS A/T | 847,000 | 100,000 | 62,921 | 43,370 | 34,371 | 24,763 | 20,205 | 17,131 | 16,067 |
| GLX 1.8 GAS A/T | 807,000 | 90,000 | 60,215 | 41,505 | 32,895 | 23,699 | 19,337 | 16,395 | 15,376 |
| GL 1.8 GAS M/T | 698,000 | 80,000 | 51,500 | 35,349 | 28,023 | 20,189 | 16,473 | 13,963 | 13,096 |
| DLX 2.4 DSL M/T | 690,000 | 80,000 | 53,242 | 36,698 | 29,063 | 20,938 | 17,084 | 14,496 | 13,596 |
| DLX 1.8 GAS M/T (12.07%) | 663,000 | 80,000 | 48,583 | 33,173 | 26,301 | 18,948 | 15,460 | 13,103 | 12,290 |
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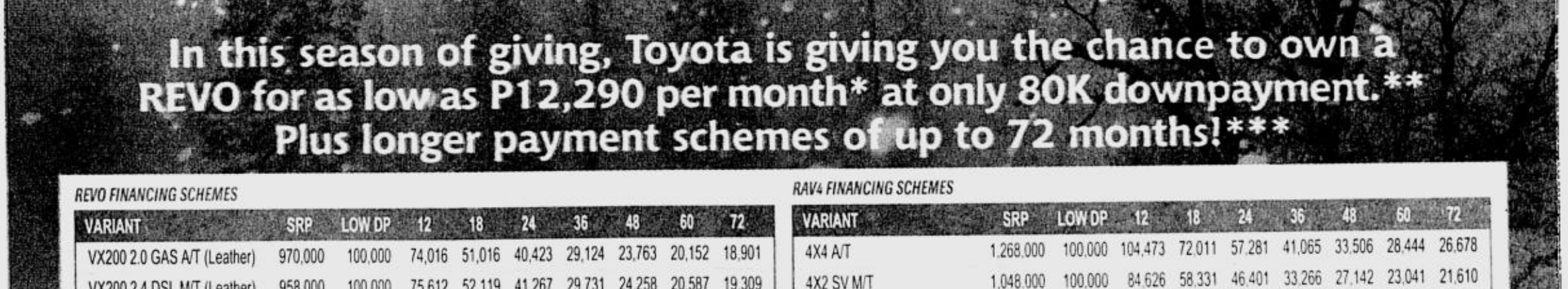


*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3149 Series of 2004.*

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# Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

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*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**


## IN THIS ISSUE

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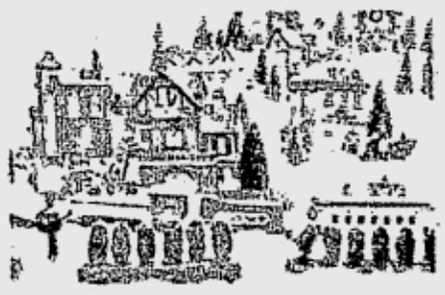


**CHRISTMAS** in miniature /H1

***Get the chance to bid on and win one-of-a-kind Hello Kitty T-shirts designed by your favorite celebrities!***

*Joining is SMART and easy!*

*Check out the Hello Kitty Celebri-TEE Auction on eBay Philippines. Choose a shirt you like and place a bid -- it's that easy!*

*As an added bonus, all SMART Subscribers get a special gift with every winning bid!*

*So what are you waiting for? Get this once-in-a-lifetime chance only from Gift Gate and SMART!*

*To view the auction items, go to http://www.ebay.ph and click on Hello Kitty Auctions.*

*Or visit the SMART wap site at http://wap.smart.com.ph, click on "What's New" then click on "Hello Kitty Auctions."*

*Want to bid but new to eBay? Then visit the Hello One-of-a-Kind Museum in Glorietta 2 and we'll show you how to register so that you'll be able to bid for an item*
*Minimum bid is P1,000.*
*Auction period is from Dec. 19 - 28, 2004*

*Claiming of shirts at the Gift Gate Head Office is from January 17 - 21, 2005, 1-5pm.*

*Check out these celebrity shirts on display at the Hello One-of-a-Kind Museum in Glorietta 2.*

*to the terms and conditions of ebay.ph*

| Celebrity Shirt | KEYWORD | Celebrity Shirt | KEYWORD |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ate Glow | ATEGLOW | Kiko Escora | KIKO |
| Bong Ravena | BONG | Maricel Soriano | MARICEL |
| Celine Lopez | CELINE | Martin Nievera | MARTIN |
| China Cojuangco | CHINA | Matteo Guidicelli | MATTEO |
| Claudine Barretto | CLAUDINE | Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski | MIKEE |
| Cris Villanueva | CRIS | Rajo Laurel | RAJO |
| Gaita Fores | GAITA | Corey Wills | COREY |
| Inno Sotto | INNO | Rowell Santiago | ROWELL |
| Jenni Epperson | JENNI | Tessa Prieto-Valdes | TESSA |
| Kate Torralba | KATE | Tim Yap | TIM |

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gift gate

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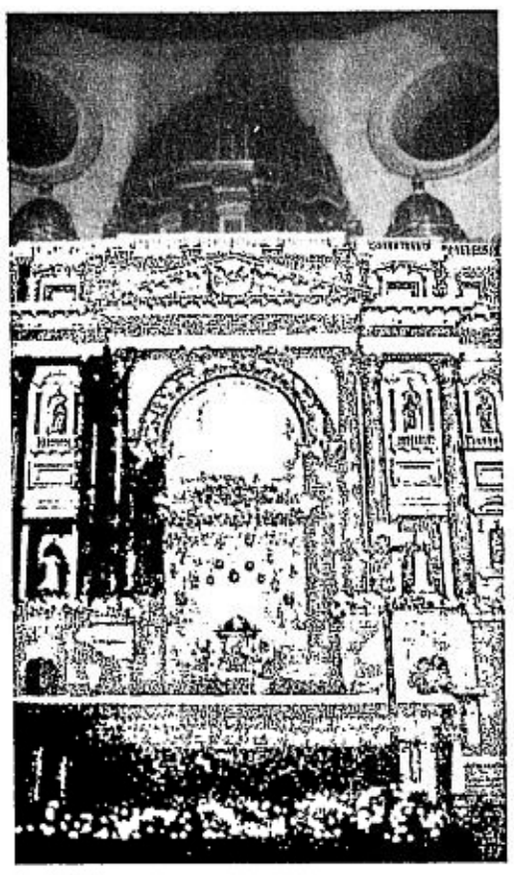
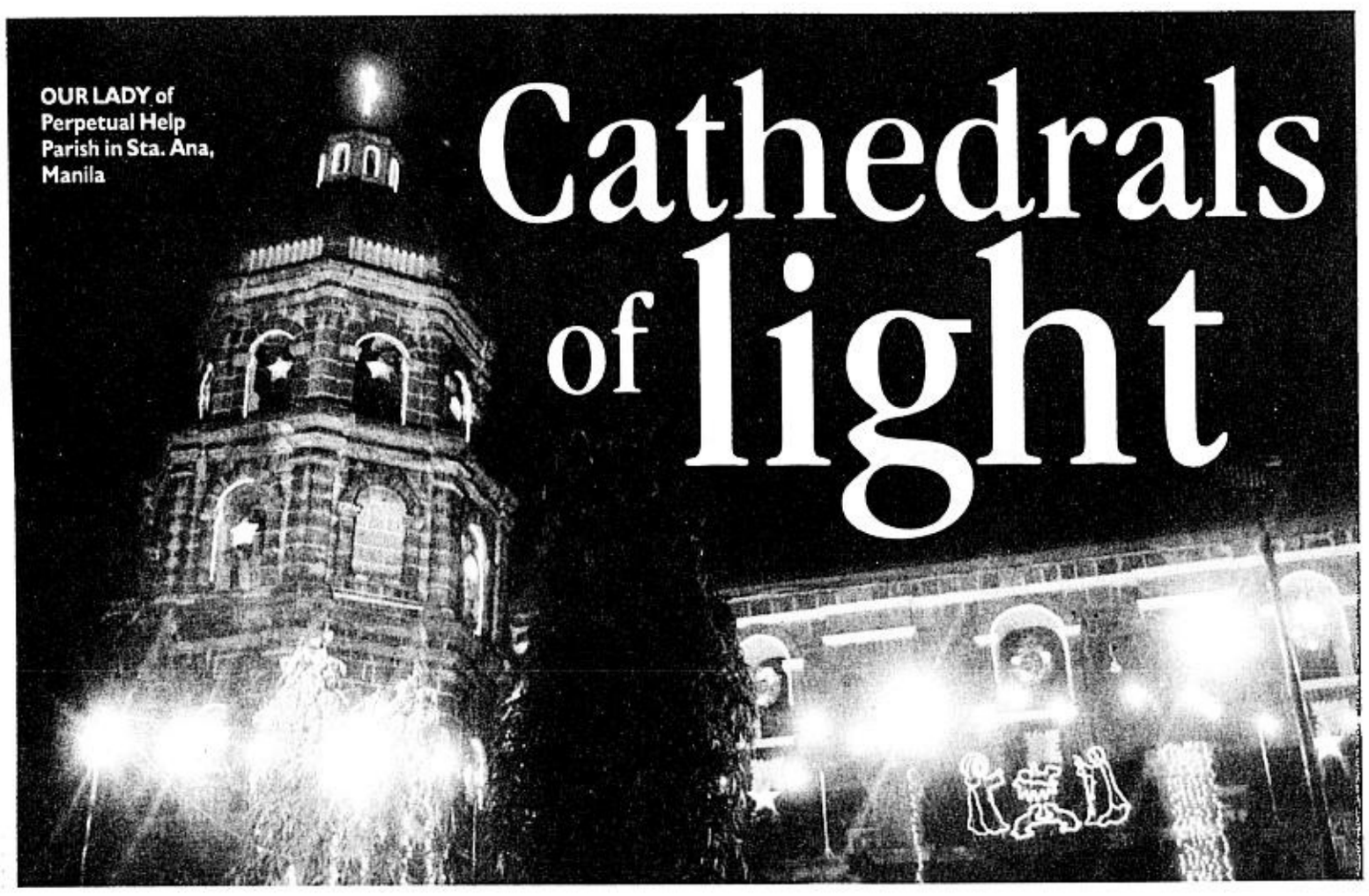


SAN LORENZO Ruiz Minor Basilica in Binondo, Manila

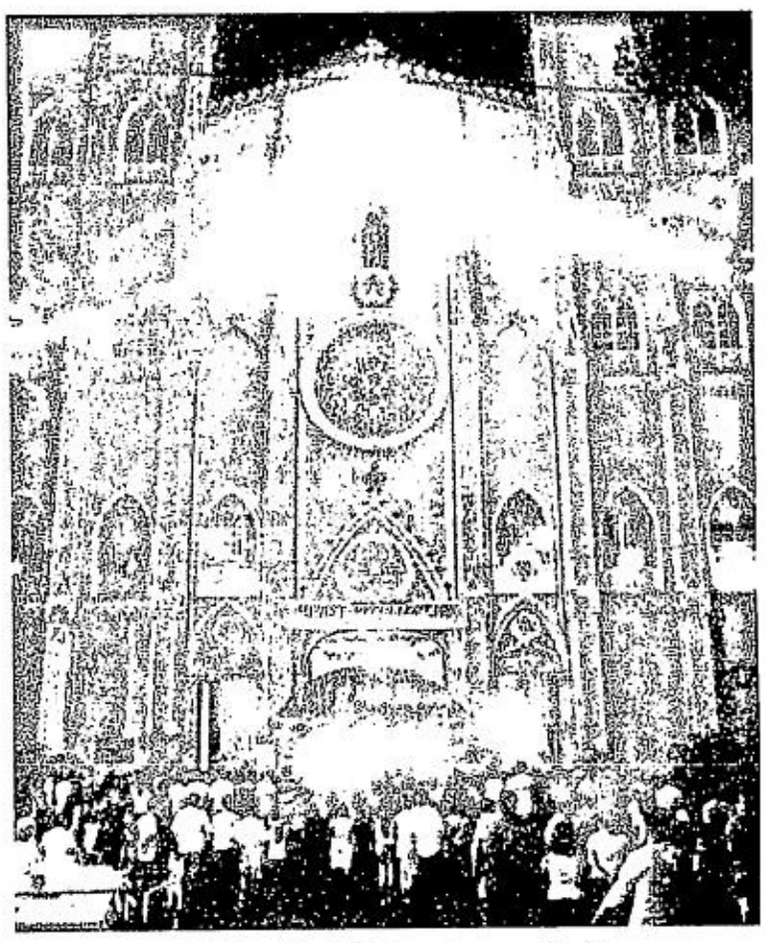
MINOR Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila

Catholic churches remain the best showcases of the best of Christmas

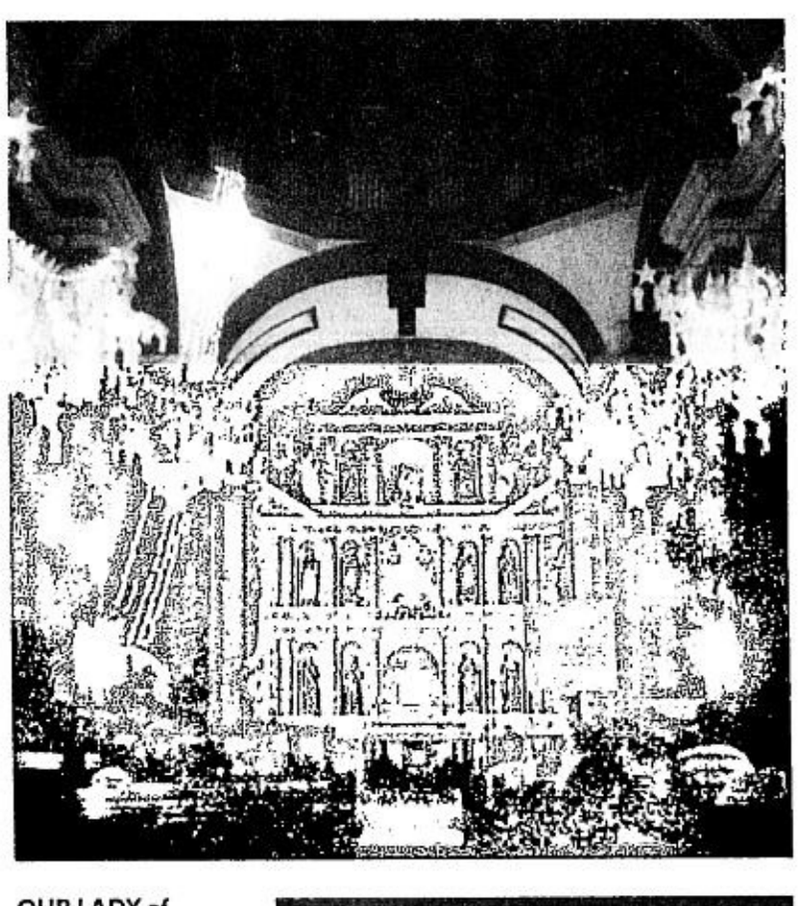
# Cathedrals of light



OUR LADY of Perpetual Help Parish in Sta. Ana, Manila



SAN SEBASTIAN Church in C.M. Recto Avenue, Manila



Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SPRUCING up Catholic churches for Christmas has been a major and exciting task for Mother Butler, the group of Catholic ladies in charge of decorating churches during special occasions.

They hang the lanterns and install the lights on the altar and outside the church. They adorn the walls and doors with wreaths and garlands and put up the Belen. All these they accomplish a few days before the beginning of the Misa de Gallo.

"To be able to buy these decorations, we organize our annual caroling. Through this activity, we get our funding for such expenses. Every year, we come up with a different design," says a member of the Mother Butler of San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica in Binondo.

When the first cockcrow is heard on Dec. 16, exultation rings throughout the country as church bells toll loudly to signal the official start of Christmastide.

Suddenly, lights flicker and shimmer. Most churches in the country are all aglow, dressed up for the holidays, casting the spell of the Christmas spirit on everyone who attends the nine-day Simbang Gabi.

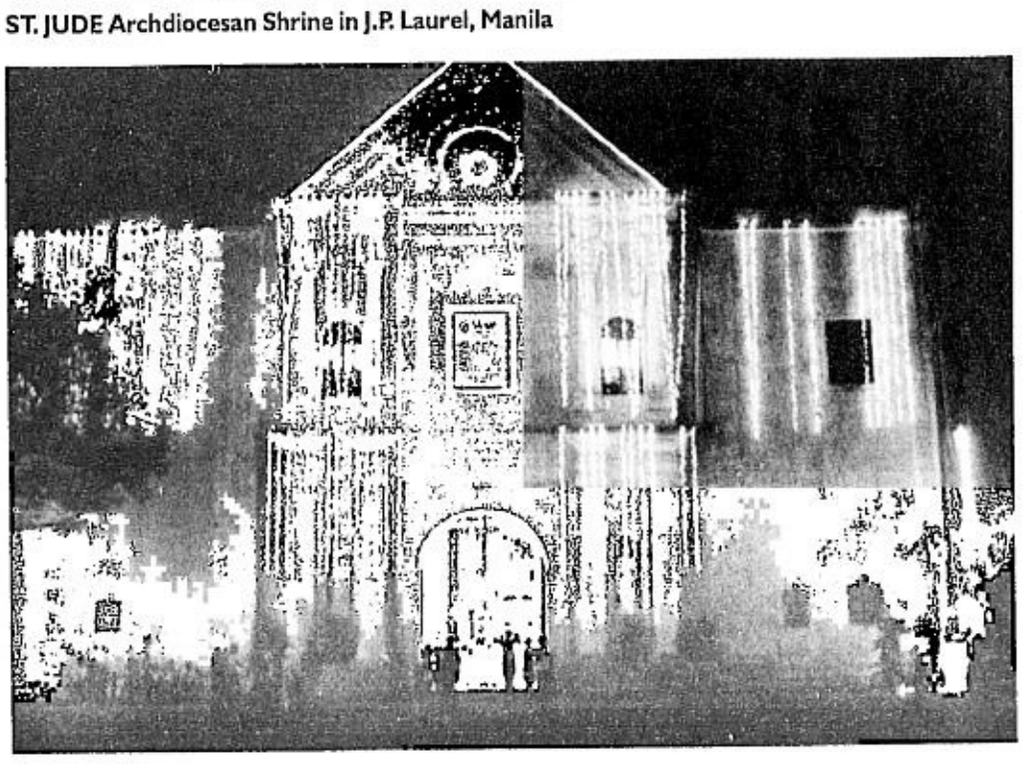
To capture the Christmas spirit, one only has to drive around in the evening (some churches hold the Simbang Gabi at 9:30 p.m.) or at dawn to savor the churches' transformation into breathtaking structures filled with twinkling lights and glittering ornaments.

Lanterns fashioned from Japanese paper, wood, plastic, metal, capiz shell and other environmentally friendly native materials are ubiquitous in most churches.

But the center of attention is the Belen, a name given to the tableau that represents the glorious Nativity scene. Figures of the Infant Jesus, the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph are joined by shepherds, peasants, kings and angels as well as farm animals. For many Filipinos, the Belen is an affirmation of their religious fervor and faith.

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph.*

ST. JUDE Archdiocesan Shrine in J.P. Laurel, Manila



SAN AGUSTIN Church in Intramuros, Manila

OUR LADY of Perpetual Help Parish in Sta. Ana, Manila

THE BELEN outside Manila Cathedral

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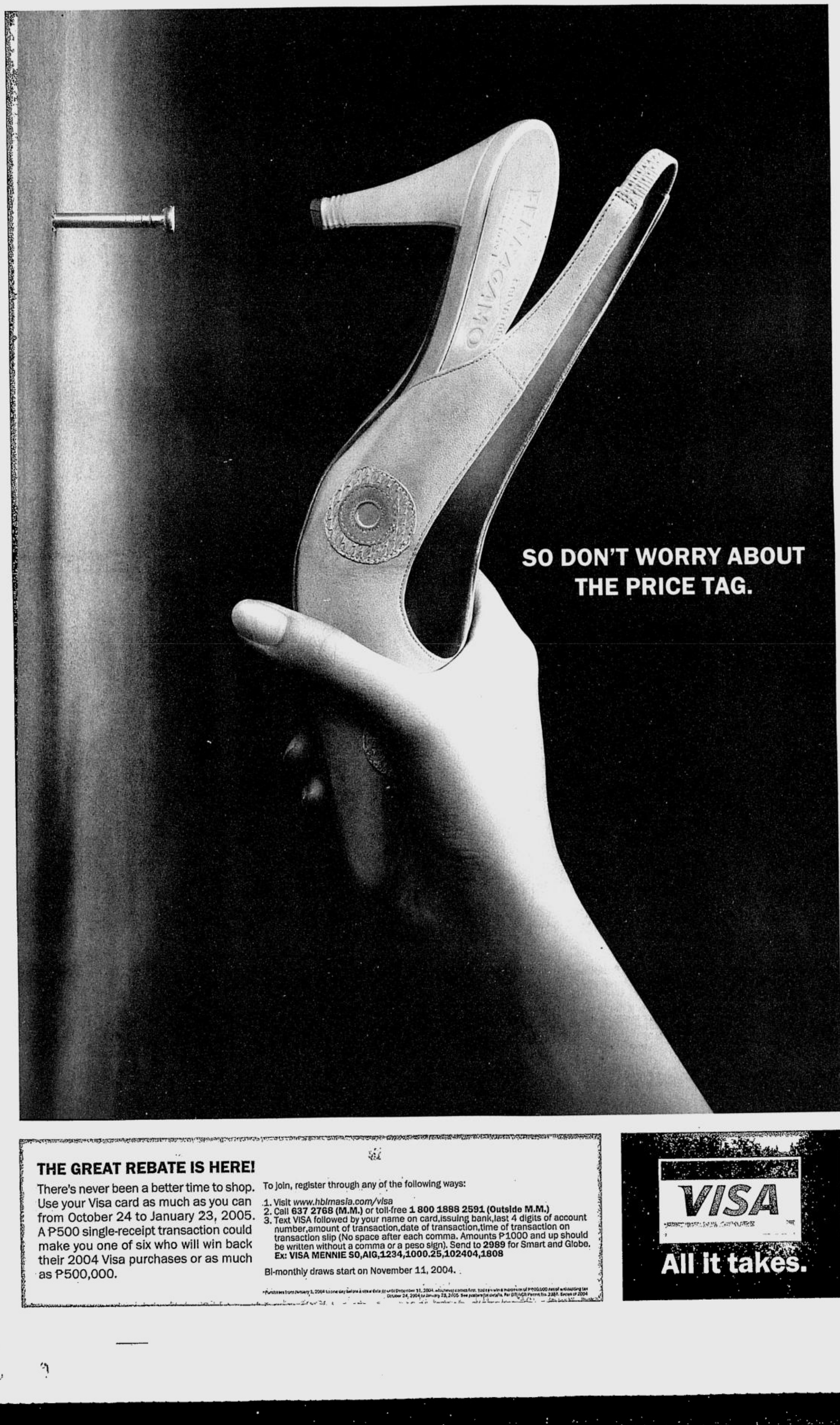


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There's never been a better time to shop. Use your Visa card as much as you can from October 24 to January 23, 2005. A P500 single-receipt transaction could make you one of six who will win back their 2004 Visa purchases or as much as P500,000.

To join, register through any of the following ways:

1. Visit *www.hblmasia.com/visa*
2. Call **637 2768 (M.M.)** or toll-free **1 800 1888 2591 (Outside M.M.)**
3. Text VISA followed by your name on card,issuing bank,last 4 digits of account number,amount of transaction,date of transaction,time of transaction on transaction slip (No space after each comma. Amounts P1000 and up should be written without a comma or a peso sign). Send to **2989** for Smart and Globe.
   **Ex: VISA MENNIE SO,AIG,1234,1000.25,102404,1808**

Bi-monthly draws start on November 11, 2004.

*Purchases from January 1, 2004 to one day before a new date to be set December 31, 2004, whichever comes first. Total win a maximum of P500,000 net of withholding tax October 24, 2004 to January 23, 2005. See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2881, Series of 2004

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PLANCONFIRM

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b. Minimum transaction amount is P700.
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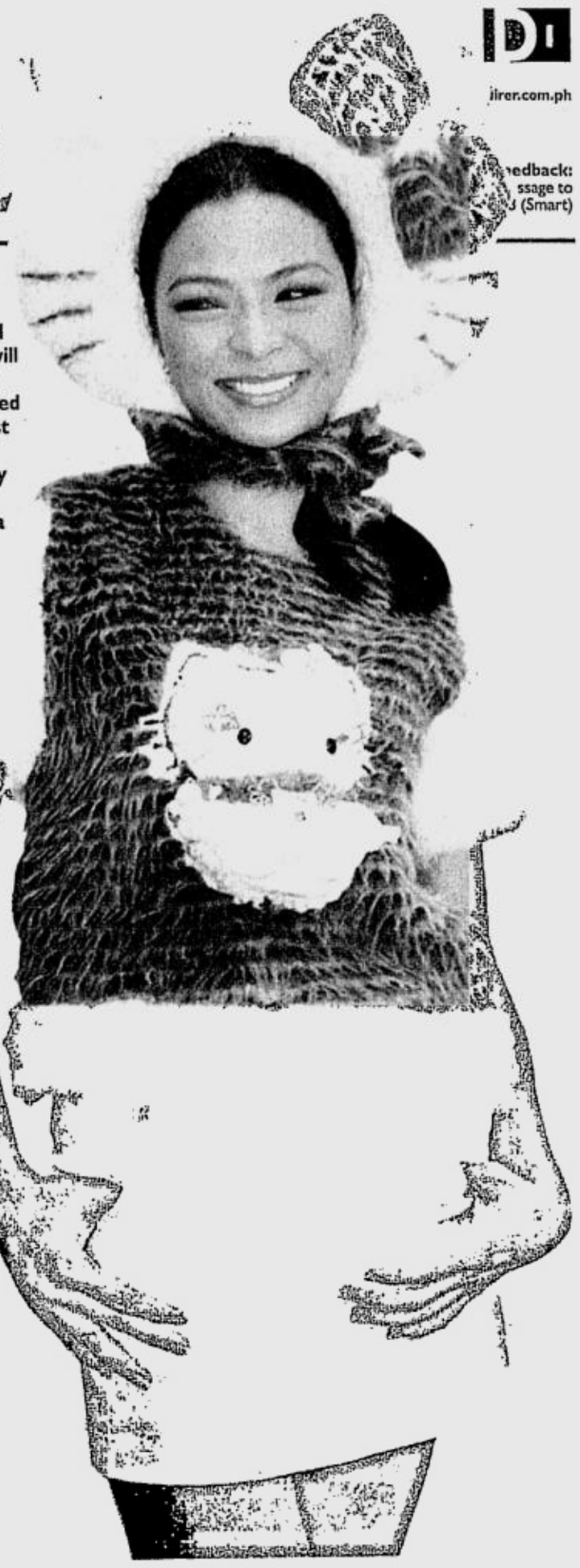
MANNY Pangilinan gamely wears French designer Castel Bajac's Hello Kitty 30 limited-edition shirt.

SMART MEN. Manny P. and Boy Martinez (left) unveiling the Hello One-of-a-Kind Museum at Glorietta 2 with Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos



LET it snow and Rissa Samson will still be warm in this furry, hooded and musical first prize entry, "Wintry Snazzy Kitty" by Maureen Reeca Cruz

# The One and Only

A museum for the entries to the Hello Kitty design-a-tee contest becomes testimony to the Pinoy's heart for art to wear

IN an ultra-cute, super-glam laundry shop setting, over 1,000 unique T-shirt designs are on exhibit at the Hello One-of-A-Kind Museum on the ground floor of Glorietta 2.

Gift Gate and Smart have teamed up for this one-of-a-kind tie up in featuring the entries of the recently concluded Hello Kitty Design a Tee contest.

"Wintry Snazzy Kitty" by Maureen Reeca Cruz won the P100,000 top prize. Over P300,000 worth of prizes were given away as prizes to entries in different categories including Smart and Hello Kitty, Smart Buddy with Hello Kitty, Smart Kid with Hello Kitty and Smart Addict with Hello Kitty.

The winning entries in this first-ever Hello Kitty Design a Tee

THE ONE/ D2

FORTUN Santos (left) wears fourth prize entry, "Pinoy Kitty"; detail shows PDI's Guyito (inset); Marilen Faustino (right) dons second prize entry, "Hello Kitty Shopsville"; and Nicolette Bell (extreme right) wears the Smart special awardee, "Funky Feline"

# The One and only

From page D1

contest did not disappoint judges Rowell Santiago, Inno Sotto, Ino Manalo and Gift Gate VP Gila Garcia in their artistry and innovation.

Geraldine Meneses, who designed the second placing entry Hello Kitty Shopsville, did such a masterful job with the embroidery of her T-shirt that no less than Inno Sotto himself has offered to hire her in his atelier! How's that for walking away with a grand prize.

From today until Dec. 28, the winning T-shirts are being auctioned off for charity on eBay. To join the auction go to http://www.ebay.ph and click on Hello Kitty Auctions. Minimum bid for each celebrity tee is P1,000.

The very best entries may go into commercial production for sale to the public again with part of the proceeds to be donated to charity.

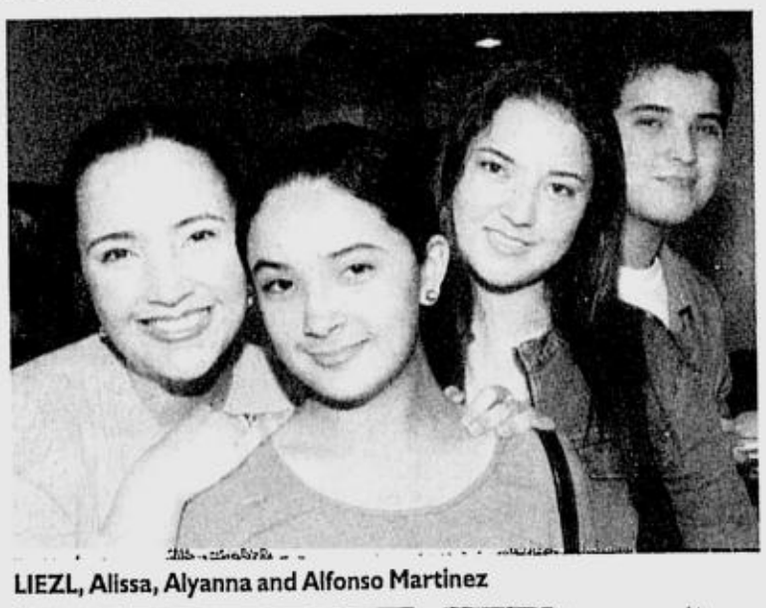
For exhibition purposes, the entries were divided into five sections: Kitty Creativity, Kitty Cameos, Kitty Causes, Kitty Couture, Kitty Concepts

The Hello One-of-a-Kind Museum is open to the public everyday until Dec. 30, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

JUDGMENT DAY. Inno Sotto (left) checks for lose thread and Ino Manalo looks out for the Pinoy element, while Virgie Ramos referees. At right, Rowell Santiago with Smart judges

SMART TOO: "Purr-fect Buddy" on Isabelle Adiera; "Smartle" on worn by Wendy Tabusalla; "Dazzling Golden Kitty," on Zoe Richards; and "Snow Kitty's Merry Chrissmart" on hanger all get Smart prizes

GUYS TOO. Borgy Manotoc shows off his mom Imee's vintage Kitty tee and Matteo Guidicelli dons Hello Kitty satin Jacket from Sanrio's Fall-Winter '04 Collection



LIEZL, Alissa, Alyanna and Alfonso Martinez

KITTY family bonding time. Richard and Tana Gelb with daughter Serena

MONIQUE and daughter Tere Villonco

"COMADRES" Sheila Ramos and Nancy Binay-Angeles with baby Anya Angeles

PINK girls make purr-fect Kitty girls with Matteo. (From left) Zoe Richards, Arianna Colamonici, Henny Gonzalez, Bianca Reyes and Sarah Galos

PINK SEA PRINCESS
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

The lighting of the *parol* and other holiday decor at Robinsons Malls

HOST Mickey Ferriols, RLC EVP Frederick Go, Sta. Ana parish priest Fr. Mark Munda, Mandaluyong Vice Mayor Jessie Cruz, Robinsons Malls general manager Nilo Mapa and Miss Robinsons Rina Rigets

# Christmas times four

ROBINSONS Malls is celebrating Christmas four times over with a series of mall décor lighting events held recently in the newly opened Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Place Novaliches and Robinsons Starmills Pampanga.

At Robinsons Place Pioneer, Mandaluyong Vice Mayor Jessie Cruz, who represented Mayor Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales II, officially lighted the central mall décor. The ceremony was followed by a star-studded program featuring Gary Valenciano, Agot Isidro, Malik and Mickey Ferriols.

Highlight of the ceremony was the turnover of donations to The Gift of Change 's beneficiary, the Gawad Kalinga Cardinal Sin Housing Project in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila.

Three outdoor Christmas spreads have also been set up at Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Robinsons Place Pioneer.

A giant outdoor Christmas tree, estimated to be over 90 feet, was officially unveiled in a lighting ceremony led by Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Tadi Palma, OIC of Novaliches District Center, together with Robinsons Malls' officials: general manager Nilo S. Mapa and vice president for complex administration Tommy Lee O.

The tree is decked with fine trimmings and thousands of flickering lights, and is topped by a Star of David.

Celebrities Jessa Zaragosa, Jeffrey Hidalgo, James Blanco, "Born Divas" Shanice, Reema Lucida and Shayne Corpuz, and host Iya Villania were the main attractions of the program that followed. It was capped by a Fireworks display.

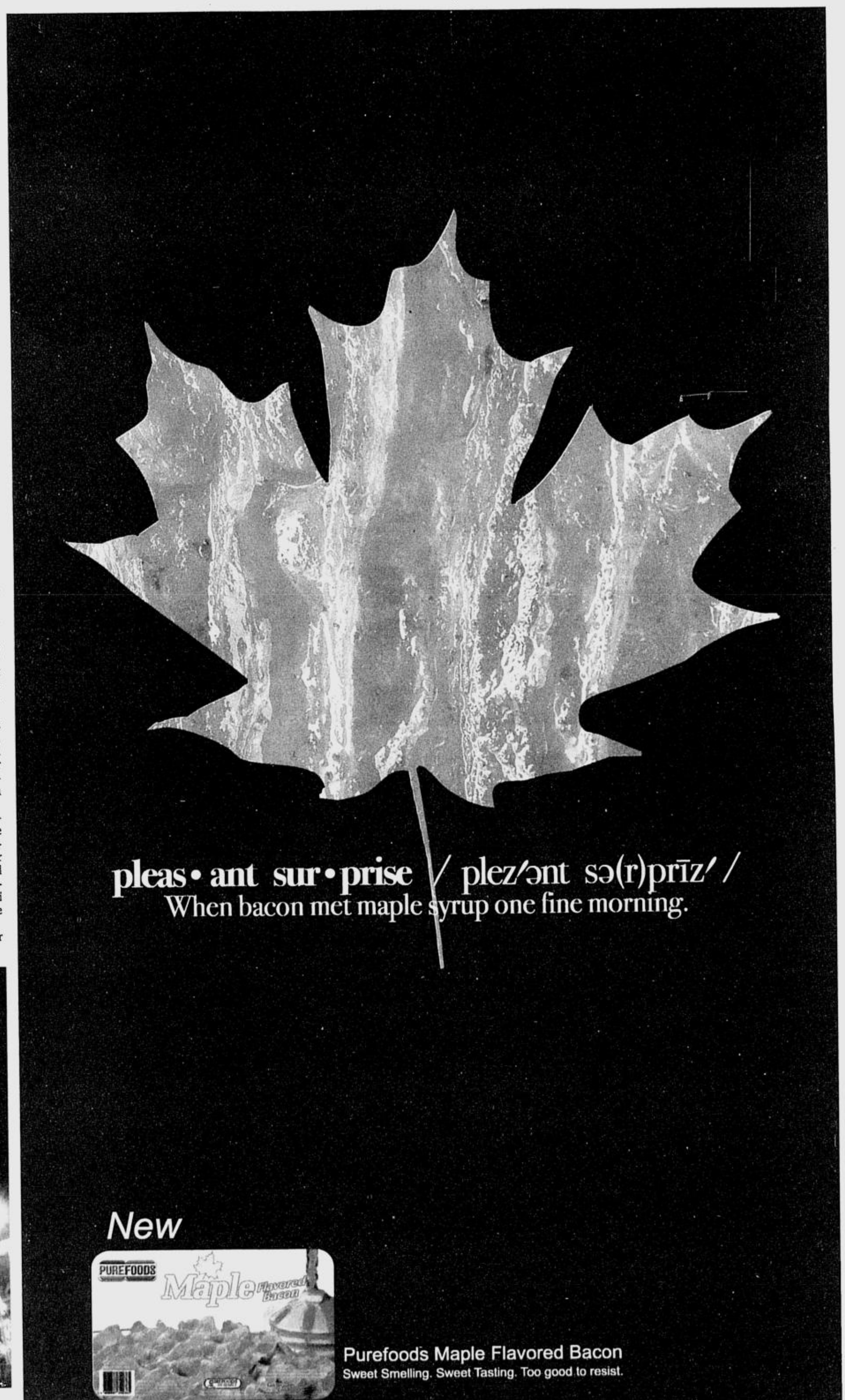
Robinsons Starmills in Pampanga, the Christmas capital of the Philippines, came up with a spectacular and well-lit display that portrays Filipino values and traditions: Simbang Gabi, children singing Christmas carols, family gatherings.

San Fernando mayor Oscar Rodriguez graced the unveiling ceremony of the display, dubbed as the Grand Christmas Mechanical Puppet Show. Jolina Magdangal, together with Malik and Rada, regaled the Kapampangans with their brand of entertainment in a free concert.

Finally, Robinsons Malls' Christmas celebrations came to a full circle when a huge outdoor Santa display at Robinsons Place Pioneer was inaugurated with an on-the-air countdown led by Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K Lite. A mini-concert featuring JM Rodriguez, Gretchen Fullido, the Akafellas, Toni Gonzaga and Josh Santana added flair to the festivities.

Call 3952507, 6875681 loc. 355/356 or 0922-8059031.

A GRAND fireworks display accompanied the lighting of the giant Christmas tree.



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| Sunday Morning | Maroon 5 | SUNDAYMORN | Hold Me Now | Wayne Wonder | HOLDMENOW |
| Jingle Bell Rock | Various Artists | JINGLEROCK | Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer | Various Artists | RUDOLPH |
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and Dance Ensemble
of Hulunbeir City,
in Inner Mongolia

# Mongol invasion

**BURYAT'S Melody expresses the happiness and innocence of the Mongolian maidens.**

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rudy Esperas

CULTURE invades the malls as performers from the musically rich land of Inner Mongolia—where music and musical instruments, according to folk legends, are closely linked to the sound of nature—recently wowed urban mall-goers in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu to a truly unique song-and-dance show for free.

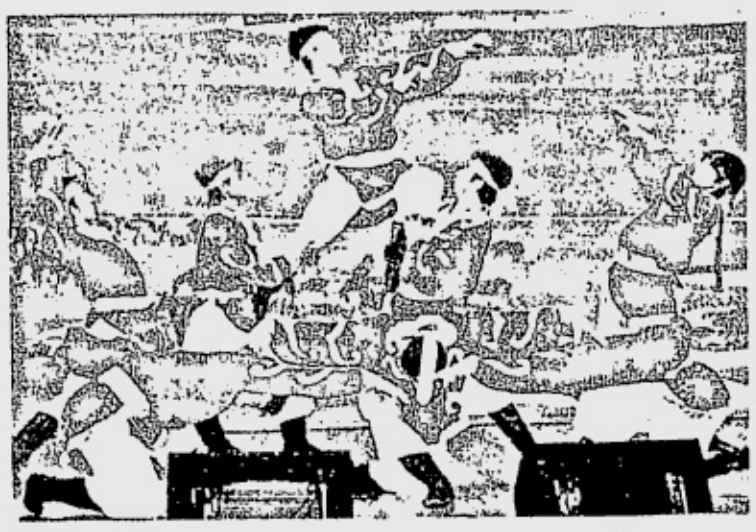
One of the most ancient forms of musical and poetic art, Mongolian music is deeply influenced by the relationship between its people and nature, often mimicking the cries of animals and birds or the noise of the wind.

And why not? Nature is abundant in Inner Mongolia, with vast grasslands, lakes, rivers, forests, and so its nomad shepherds were naturally taken to play string and wind instruments, often taking inspiration from their surroundings.

"Since Oishi has been in different places in China it gave us the opportunity to see China the way other Filipinos hasn't," says Shera Chan, marketing department head of the family-owned Oishi snacks manufactured by Liway-way Marketing Corp.

With a vision of introducing a different Chinese culture to Filipinos, Oishi brought to the country the National Song and Dance Ensemble of Hulunbeir City, known as the Jade of North China, in Inner Mongolia. By putting up cultural shows in a mall setting, Chan hopes more Filipinos will witness the cultural diversity of China.

"China is so different within itself. Each region has intrinsic traditional dances and songs, and each has professional performers being trained. I think that's something Filipinos don't see," Chan says.



**THE GALLOPING Horse Dance, performed by all-male dancers, is dedicated to the horses.**

Founded in 1950, the ensemble renowned for playing traditional instruments, music, dance and songs, has performed in many countries, including Korea, Holland, Sweden, Russia, Thailand, Burma, Taiwan, and has had Chinese leaders such as Mao Zedong, Jiang Zemin and Deng Xiaoping among its audiences.

The famous of instruments the group is known for excellently executing is the Morin khuur, loosely translated as the horse instrument, but which has since earned the moniker Horse Head Fiddle. It is this instrument who two strings of horsetail hair—a thin one of about 105 hairs from a mare's and a thick one of 130 from a stallion's—that renders that searingly poignant melody familiar in many famous Chinese movies.

Considered the most important traditional Mongolian musical instrument as it reflects the key role of horses in ancient times, the early versions of Morin khuur had horse ribs as shafts of the bow. The trapezoidal wooden frame is covered with horse's skin, and horse's head is carved at the top of the peg box.

This ancient musical expression of cattle breeding and hunting has legends told of its performer imitating the neighing and clattering of hoofs and reproducing the sensation of gallop and flight through music.

A dance rendition dedicated to the horses, the Galloping Horse Dance is performed by male dancers whose rhythmic stomping of the feet symbolizes the sound of galloping hooves. They leap and spread their arms to imitate the horses' graceful strides. Horses were important for the early nomadic people since they were the primary means of transportation.

"Oishi has good relations with different local governments all over China. This cultural exchange, although very tricky to bring to a mall crowd that is not accustomed to cultural shows, is part of our partnership with Inner Mongolia," says Chan.

The National Song and Dance

MONGOL/ E3

TheMallofe'eMall!

For the second time around, the Philippine Retailer's Association with the Department of Trade and Industry awarded the mall you love, Ayala Center Makati, "2004 Shopping Center of the Year". An honor it also won in 2002. Ayala Center shares this victory with its merchant partners and more ultimately, its greatest source of inspiration: its shoppers - the very people it has chosen to serve and satisfy. For making it all possible, Ayala Center thanks and wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.

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STYLISH watch lovers Tonichi Nocom, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, JR Isaac, Liza Ilarde and Elbert Cuenca

BENCH big boss Ben Chan with guests Marnie Chua and Richard Gomez

BENCH/TIME big names: Ivan Yao, Kris Aquino, Lucy Torres-Gomez with daughter Juliana

# Pregnant and carnivorous this Christmas

LUCERNE'S Emerson Yao, lucky winner Tito Manapat, Philip Stein's Christie Wo and Jozette Ho

PHILIP Stein exhibit personalities Pam Pamintuan, Raymund Isaac, Sunny Ku, Rod Nepomuceno and TJ Manotoc

UPCOMING models Boom La Brousca, Carlo Parto, Jeff Misolas and John Mullali

HOLIDAY party girls Angelica Suiza, Millet Mananquil, Toni Abad, Liza Ilarde and Gia Estrella

WE all seem fixated with trying to keep our weight down during this season of merriment. Even before the Noche Buena dinner has been set, majority of us will have packed an extra pound or two and will have put off their exercise routine for next year. In fact, the first item in most New Year's resolutions is to get back into shape.

As my pregnancy continues its weight rampage on my body, the only part of me that seems to remain the same is my wrist size. So it was appropriate enough that two recent launches I attended featured watches.

Before conceiving this baby, I had to convince my conservative husband **Dennis** that I was not too old and told him the example of Madonna, my timeless icon, who had her second child at 42. Not that I would imitate her blindly, but when a Madonna-approved watch comes out in the market that doubles up as a protection against electronic pollution from cell phones, computers and DVD players, of course I would be interested.

Does that sound like a fusion of new age and space age? The Philip Stein Teslar watch has two small Teslar chips, built into every timepiece, that helps reinforce and protect the body's own electromagnetic field against unwelcome interactions with external electronic negativity. Though derided as far out pseudoscience by skeptics, the watches have nevertheless been selling out in the States especially since Oprah Winfrey featured them in her show as among "Holiday Favorite Things" last year.

At its Manila launch, master photographer **Raymund Isaac** featured celebrated personalities who lead healthy lifestyles wearing the watches at a stunning photo exhibit at the Podium Mall. Among the diverse individuals, my photograph had to be the most animated yet elegant to camouflage my added weight. The outcome was marvelous, thanks to the makeup expertise of **Juan Sarte** combined with Raymund's extraordinary concept.

I was just glad to be introduced to the benefits of the watch so at least I am doing something right for the baby by protecting her from EMF radiation. Perhaps that will somehow make up for the strange twists my usual vegetarian diet has taken—I eat meat, my favorite food group now includes sweets, and strangely, I detest vegetables!

Now if only I can convince Dennis to get me the Philip Stein watch with the diamond bezel being sold at the Lucerne Jewelries.

## Christmas watch

While on the subject of watches, I was lucky to receive another more hip and trendy kind at the fun Christmas exchange gift party of Famous events maven **Keren Pascual**. I picked the name of Bench's inspiration, **Miguel Pastor** himself, and got a Bench/Time watch (clearly worth much more than the exchange gift budget of P500).

Pretty-boy model **Luke Jickain** was just as lucky to pick Bench big boss **Ben Chan's** gift. But the luckiest that evening was swinging model **Nicolette Bell**, who championed over the nine finalists to win an Ipod player.

Bench/Time Watch Collection was unveiled recently in a high-energy launch with a night full of lively club music and Royal Rhythm Force, a celebrated Brazilian percussion group. The collection features timepieces made from solid stainless steel passing Swiss watch-making standards. But for me, the collection is so appealing due to the variety of styles—from the stylish and sophisticated, sporty and functional to the classics and vintage looks. And the price ranges are so reasonable! I shall buy up a few for Christmas at L Time Studio for my naughty and nice friends.

Retailing genius Ben is truly unstoppable and his company is growing by the minute, literally. With this new watch collection, he may soon venture into producing Bench cell phones and have his celebrity endorsers like Royal couple **Richard** and **Lucy Gomez** or effervescent **Kris Aquino** come out with Bench print and billboard ads.

It is Ben's generous nature that gives him more blessings. At the annual Christmas party of my dearest friends, Ben brought giveaways and prizes for all, which made everyone's loot bags and gifts overflow!

I really enjoy hosting games and parties. My theme this year was the "recycled" look since I decided to donate to the typhoon victims instead of buying new décor and thus ended up recycling our old Christmas decorations.

Speaking of time, I'm out of it for this column, so let me just end by saying, "May this be the merriest of your Christmas seasons ever!"

*E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.*

**TESSA!**

*Tessa Prieto-Valdes*

Aside from meat, my favorite food group now includes sweets, and strangely, I detest vegetables!

CHRISTMAS Recycle Party gang

FUN party guests Miguel Pastor and Phoem Barranda

GORGEOUS sisters Mabeth Agcaoili and Pinky Webb

VEGGIE buddies Jon-jon Rufino and RJ Ledesma

SIZZLING couple Jacques Dupasquier and Rachel Soriano with Keren Pascual

FIRMA gurus Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre with Gai Olivares

EARLY party birds Emily Siy, Maryanne and Francis Lumen

PINEAPPLE owners Angelette Calero and Leah Puyat with Malu Gamboa

THE MORIN khuur, or horse head fiddle, is the most quintessential of Mongolian instruments.

# Mongol invasion

From page E1

Ensemble also rendered Mongolian folk songs in two basic forms, long and short. The most popular among Mongols are the short songs with sharp rhythms. The ensemble, however, is known for its distinctive and skillful performance of the classic long song, particularly the *khoomi*, that demands of a singer's breathing and guttural techniques.

Mastery in *khoomi* allows a person to sing two or three distinct pitches at the same time. Regarded as a musical art, this demanding skill utilizes the throat as an instrument. The first tone produces high-pitched, whistle-like sound, while second a lower, deeper sound as base. Polyphonic singing is achieved when a song is rendered vocally combined with high and low sound.

The nomadic nation of Mongolia developed a strong tradition of vocal music when it was difficult to carry musical instruments while on the constant move. The Mongols' sacred relationship with nature for hundreds of years has produced a variety of amazing vocal range and style, from *khoomi* to praise, from epic to legend songs, from imitations to sacred music.

Chan says they plan to bring in more cultural performances from China. "Hopefully Filipinos will see that this is unique and different, and maybe somehow it will produce a little bit of awareness. There is more to the Chinese culture than 'Mano Po,'" she says.

*E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph*

DAWOER, one of 56 ethnic groups, performs "Lurigele" in celebration of the harvest season.

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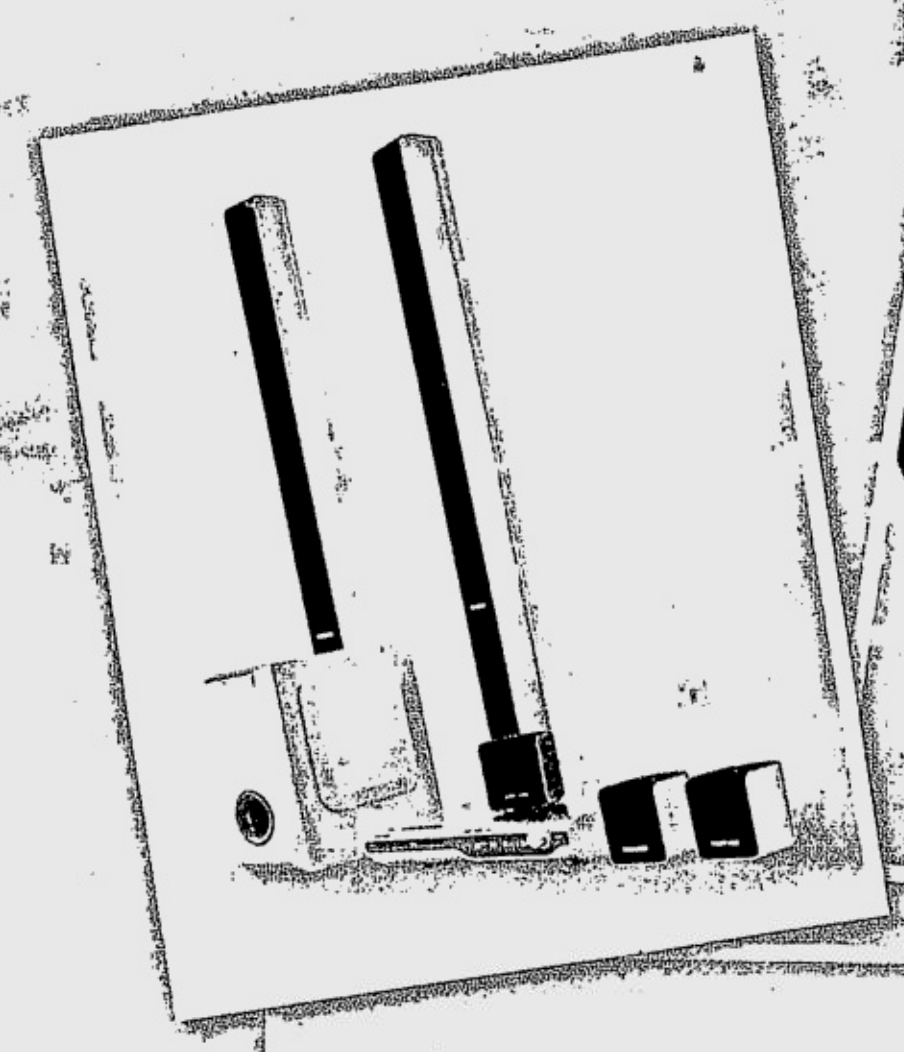

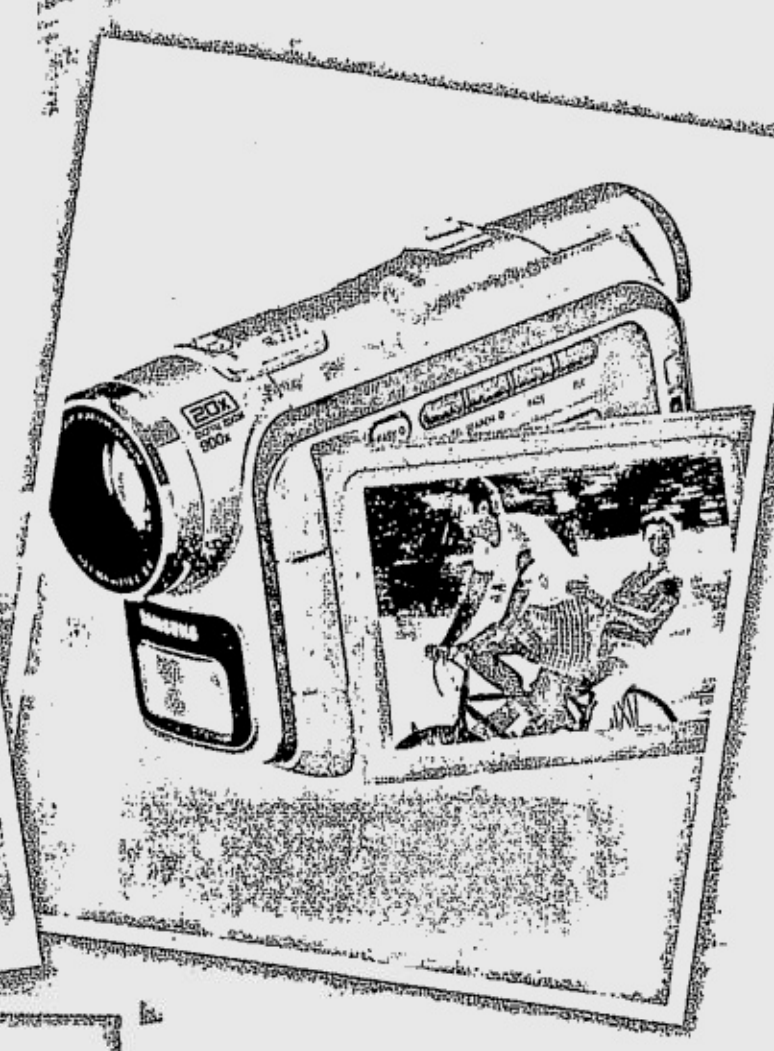

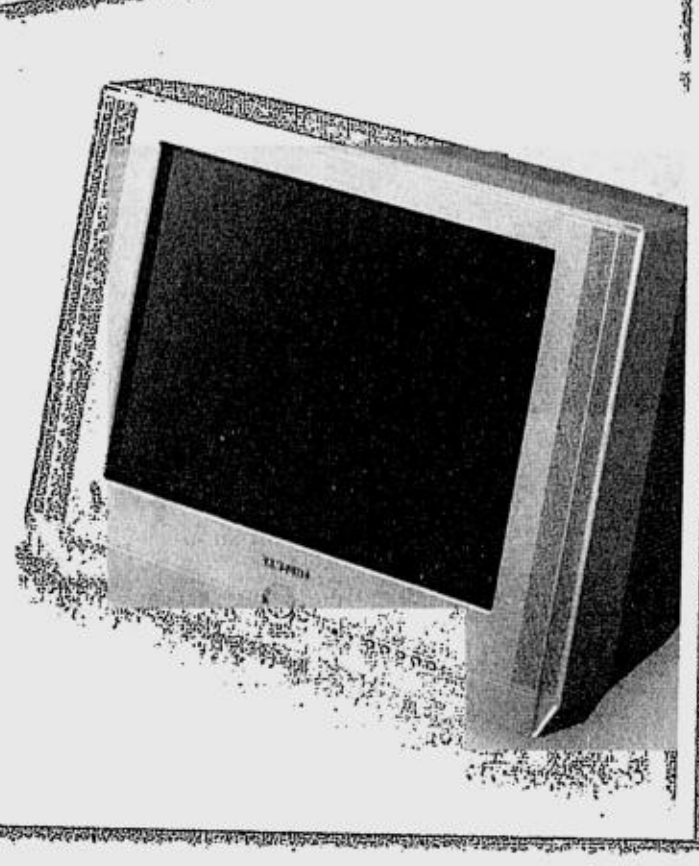

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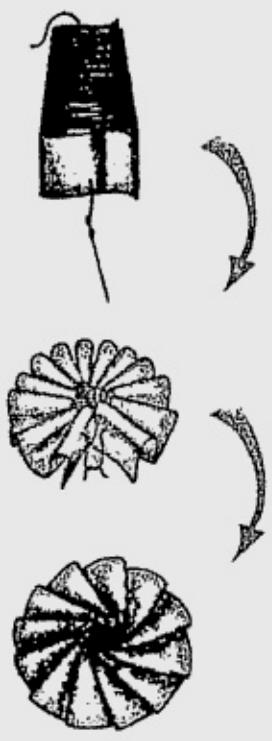
# Take a bow

RIBBONS have made a comeback as fashion accent, holiday decor and gift trimming. Did you know there are many ways to tie a ribbon? There is the classic way where you create two loops, cross the right one over the left, make a knot and pull. You can also make ribbons into a sash or a tuxedo bow. All it takes is practice, and this season, if you're no Scrooge, you'll get plenty.



**MEDALLION**
Make a series of accordion folds. Finish with both ends of the ribbon facing the same direction. Thread a needle and knot it, leaving a 1-inch tail. Pass the needle and thread through the layers, about 1/4 inch from the selvage edge. Bring ends of thread together; knot, close to the ribbon. Glue ends of ribbon together, covering the knot. Press the center of the bow to flatten, rotating the folds in one direction.

**ROSETTE**
Hold four fingers on one hand together, and wrap with ribbon, making certain it lies flat. Slide the ribbon off your fingers and pinch it together at the center. Cut a notch through all layers on each side. Tie a piece of string around the center of the ribbon, slipping it into notches; pull string taut and knot. To form the rosette, spread loops outward and twist, shaping them into a fluffy ball.

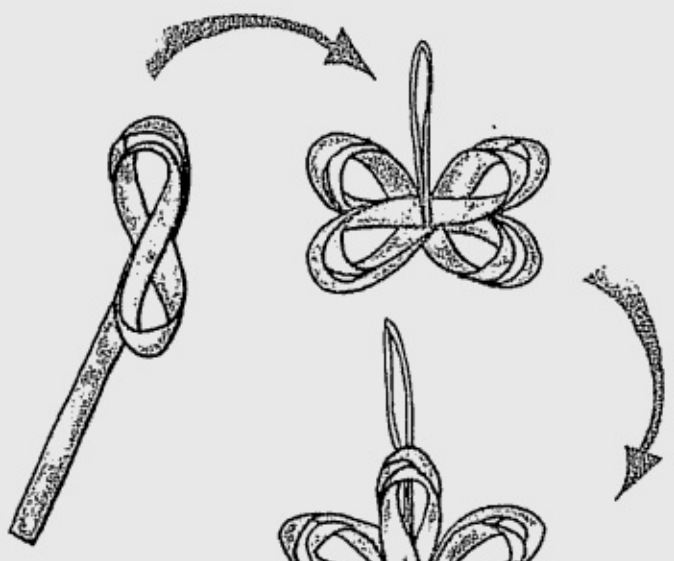
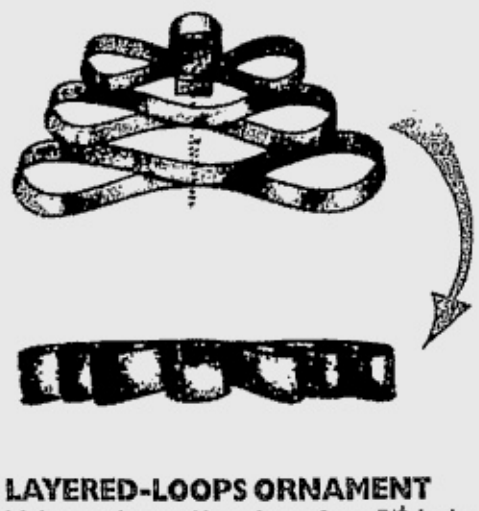
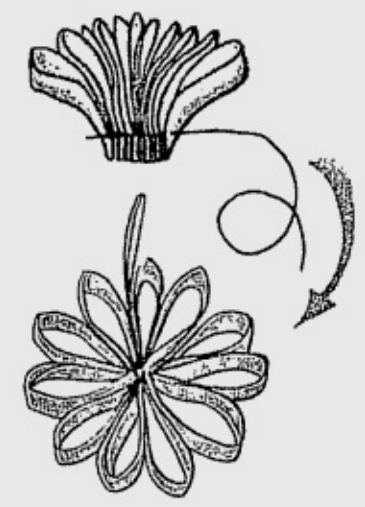


**FIGURE-EIGHT**
Form loop at one end of ribbon; glue in place. Wind the rest of the ribbon back and forth, forming a figure eight with each layer and making each a little larger than the one before it, until you've created three stacked figure eights. Glue figure eights together at the points where the ribbon crosses. Let dry. Knot the second length of ribbon around the loops at the center; rotate the knot so the smooth side is at the front.

**FIGURE-EIGHT ORNAMENT**
Make three figure-eight bows using 15-inch-long, 3/8-inch-wide satin ribbon. Start with the cut edge at back of bow and make two layers instead of three. Cross and glue two of the bows. Glue a loop of silver twine at the front center. Glue a third bow across the middle, concealing twine.



**LAYERED-LOOPS ORNAMENT**
Make two layered loop bows from 5/8-inch-wide satin. Fold an 8-inch piece of silver twine in half. Paint glue onto undersides of both bows; press together, sandwiching the ends of the twine inside. Wrap ribbon around center loops of bows; secure with fabric glue, placing ends inside a loop to conceal.



**PETAL-BOW ORNAMENT**
Make 2 1/4-inch accordion folds in ribbon; end with the raw edges facing down. Pass needle and thread through bottom, about 1/4 inch from edge. Hold together, and pull taut; knot. Spread petals; tie silver twine around thread to hang.

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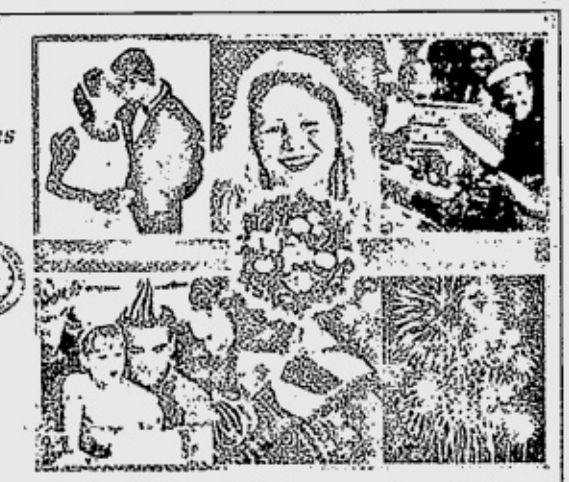

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## Thinking 2005

DESIGNER Richie Ortega and graphic artist Tracie Anglo-Dizon's friendship began in New York. "She used to buy clothes from me," Richie said.

Despite the difference in their educational backgrounds (Richie took Visual Communications at the University of the Philippines while Tracie studied Economics at the Ateneo De Manila University), the two found a common denominator in their love for fashion. In fact, they both studied at Parsons in New York.

The two agreed readily to designing the Hub. "I wanted to know how Simon of Barney's felt. *Mahirap pala.* *Nakakaloka*. It's our first window. *Iba*. It made you think differently," Tracie said.

And although it seemed that the timing was off because the offer came a few days before Tracie's scheduled trip to Milan, the two were able to turn that into an advantage.

Adding "What's new in 2005?" to the original theme, they decided to focus on trends for 2005. " It was good because Tracie was in Milan and we needed the trends. We both come from the fashion industry, it's us trying to give our two cents' worth," Richie said.

The two worked on their concept long distance, maximizing the use of their Sony Ericsson S700i, which was supposed to serve as their window's inspiration.

Driven by the need to express themselves and the desire to see how the phone will fit into their industry, the girls created a Christmas tree adorned with the Sony Ericsson S700i phones and photos of things they think will hit it big in the coming year.

"The phone is the hottest thing for next year. We wanted it to be interactive. We want people to come up and touch it and look at the photos. It's a lifestyle thing, not just a fashion thing."

Richie said, "It was fun. They gave us a free hand until the very end."

"I think it's great that there's a youth movement. We don't mean young, young. It's a mindset. It's progressive. This project is amazing. Globe was very open-minded. It's a great endeavor. I was actually surprised. The Globe team is about what's going on in the youth scene. They're in tune," Tracie said.

This Christmas, Richie will still be working.

**FASHION designers Tracie Anglo-Dizon (left) and Richie Ortega, designers of the ultra modern Christmas tree window design at Hub Rockwell inspired by the ultra sleek Sony Ericsson s700i**

"I might actually work on the 25th," said Richie. Looks like Tracie will be on the same track too. Tracie added, "I asked my husband and he said, 'Let's work. We've been taking too many vacations.'"

The girls will go back to devoting their time to their busy careers—and a huge chunk of which will undoubtedly be given to their new baby, MODI, a fashion line that features modern and indigenous designs. The two are actually advocates of preserving indigenous culture. The hard work is paying off - they will be launching the entire collection next year at a major store.

There are more good things in store for these young creative minds.

When asked about their plans for the future, Richie said, "Work, work. I'm exporting also, so I'll work on that."

Tracie, on the other hand, said, "To be able to do really great work for the projects I'm doing now. Get away with great work. Have enough clout as to get away with great work. And to do my own thing."

*E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.*

# Hub of joy—and art

**Text by Pam Pastor**
**Photos by Joseph Agcaoili**

FOR a lot of stores, preparing Christmas window displays involve shaking the dust off the previous year's twinkling lights and hanging up a mistletoe or two. But such is not the case for the Hub by Globe Telecom.

This year, they turned their windows into a canvas for some of the country's brilliant and artistic minds. Given the theme "Be Joyous" and mobile phones to jumpstart the creative process, the young artists were given the freedom to transform the window displays of the Hub branches in different malls into Christmas-inspired masterpieces.

Lifestyle caught up with three young artists. They talked about their craft, their window displays, their future plans and their memories of all things Christmas.

These young artists decked the malls—but not with boughs of holly

## Back to the future

**KIKO Escora's Christmas window at the Hub Podium**

KIKO Escora's lifelong passion for art started when he was just a child. "I've been drawing since I was a kid. I was obsessed with it."

Although he has gone through all imaginable day jobs—from waiting tables and even designing graphics for "rave" parties—he chose to focus on art starting 2001.

When he was approached about the window display project, he didn't think twice. "It's an opportunity to do something a little different, an opportunity to explore."

His inspiration, above all, was the Motorazr V3. "I focused on the shape of the Motorola phone. My design is based on their keypad. The general feature of the phone is minimalist and metallic."

Kiko's conceptualization involved a lot of sketching. "They asked us to come up with three designs." The people from Globe surprised him with their selection. "I wasn't expecting them to choose that. I thought they'd think it was too simple but they got what I was trying to come up with."

The result is a futuristic-looking installation featuring large pieces shaped like the keypad of the Motorola phone and a lot of Christmas balls.

With the window display project behind him, Kiko has a lot of other projects lined up in the near future. "I'm part of the group show by the Drawing Society of the Philippines at the Megamall Art Center. It started last Dec. 14. I'm collaborating with a lighting director and fashion director for a four-day workshop-slash-show in March. I also have three exhibitions on the calendar for next year.

But before that is Christmas. Although Kiko's childhood holidays were as normal as could be ("We played with firecrackers even before New Year. Noche Buena, of course. Gift giving, Voltes V."), this year's will be far from traditional. "I'll spend it with friends, look for any bar that's open."

Hi-Nutrition TANG

Litro Pack

# PASKONG PANGARAP 2

RAFFLE

## Congratulations sa mga nangarap at sumigla ang pasko!

### First Prize:
3 winners of ₱300,000.00

LUZON
- Moneth R. De Robles - Laguna

VISAYAS
- Angelina Dajao-Tan - Leyte

MINDANAO
- Rodolfo S. Escartin - Iligan City

### Second Prize:
20 winners of ₱20,000.00

LUZON
- Rosalie Arguelles - Makati
- Denmark T. David - Kalookan
- Ma. Victoria C. Manansala - Pampanga
- Rita M. Renta - Naga City
- Juvy M. Garces - Palawan
- Jasmin Rose Burgos - Antipolo
- Mary Ann R. Coma - Laguna
- Zenaida L. Ferrer - Pangasinan
- Marie Jay Soliven - Tarlac
- Tony M. Soriano - Pangasinan

VISAYAS
- Christine A. Espinosa - Iloilo City
- Rowena Elizabeth Suello - Bohol
- Annabella G. Auza - Cebu
- Cynthia A. Borgueta - Tacloban

MINDANAO
- Betin Sadiwa - Cotabato City
- Fanny U. Corrales - Gen. Santos City
- Erlinda V. Fernandez - Zamboanga City
- Jackie Lou L. Luy - Zamboanga City
- Juvy S. Encanto - Davao City
- Hannibal Solatonio - Cagayan de Oro

### Third Prize:
50 winners of ₱5,000.00

LUZON
- Arlene Cayabyab - Pangasinan
- Elvira T. Castro - Pampanga
- Esther Z. Dizon - Angeles City
- Ludivina C. Estillore - Baguio City
- Noemi Q. Salcedo - Pangasinan
- Lolita E. Suba - Angeles City
- Julieta Tolentino - Angeles City
- Cesaria R. Bastes - Olongapo City
- Victoria Abanag - Bulacan
- Carolina V. Danao - Olongapo City
- Esperanza Imperial - Cavite
- Juanita L. Juanilas - Laguna
- Soledad B. Isaac - Iriga City
- Magdalena Romalla - Laguna
- Imelda V. Renon - Camarines Sur
- Ancheta B. Trinidad - Batangas
- Rosario P. Chan - Cavite
- Emelita Palmero - Marikina
- Gertrudes Acuna - Sta. Mesa
- Maricel B. Pasara - Pasig
- Liza P. Asuncion - Muntinlupa City
- Edwin S. David - Taguig
- Violeta Macaraeg - Paranaque City

VISAYAS
- Ronnie Ortazo - Eastern Samar
- Loui Gee Gitgano - Cebu
- Disocora M. Valeriano - Bacolod City
- Marivic T. Eval -Tacloban City
- Himaya C. Zafra - Cebu
- Francisca D. Casiano - Western Samar
- Germelyn Felix - Negros Occidental

MINDANAO
- Marilyn Mariano - Cagayan de Oro
- Marilyn C. Dilangen - Davao City
- Grace O. Guevarra - Davao City
- Arlene T. Sajulga - Cagayan de Oro
- Elena B. Palana - Agusan del Sur
- Ma. Luz E. Mamacang - Davao City
- Johan F. Nacional - Misamis Oriental
- Teresita S. Domingo - Zamboanga City

- Danica Bianca Marie Canos - Cotabato City
- Jovelyn L. Juyo - Davao City
- Lanie B. Ruta - Davao Oriental
- Nilda S. Bernudez - Butuan City
- Lilibeth T. Oliquiano - Bukidnon
- Evelyn T. De la Cruz - Zamboanga del Norte
- Alex Senajon - Davao City
- Arjen Nunez - Davao City
- Libertino D. Nacasabog - Iligan City
- Emma Q. Gerodias - Cagayan de Oro
- Gina L. Lim - Zamboanga City
- Elaine L. Tan - Cagayan de Oro

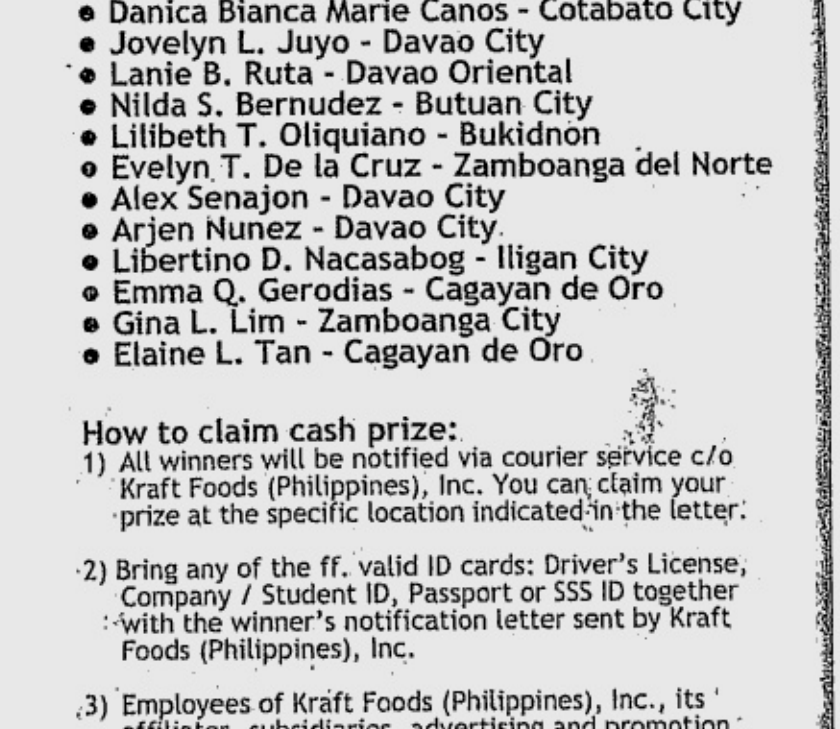
**How to claim cash prize:**

1) All winners will be notified via courier service c/o Kraft Foods (Philippines), Inc. You can claim your prize at the specific location indicated in the letter.

2) Bring any of the ff. valid ID cards: Driver's License, Company / Student ID, Passport or SSS ID together with the winner's notification letter sent by Kraft Foods (Philippines), Inc.

3) Employees of Kraft Foods (Philippines), Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and relatives up to second degree of consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

4) Redemption period is sixty (60) days from the last day of the promo period. Deadline for redemption for all prizes will be on February 12, 2005.




Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1131 series of 2004.

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Nokia 3220
Your choice of CD Cassette Player / Colored Printer / DVD Player / Digicam

Nokia 2650 / 3100 / 3120 / Motorola C375 / C650
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Motorola C375
Your choice of CD Cassette Player / Colored Printer / DVD Player / Digicam / PS2 / IPOD Mini

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Nokia 2650 / 3100 / 3120 • Motorola C375
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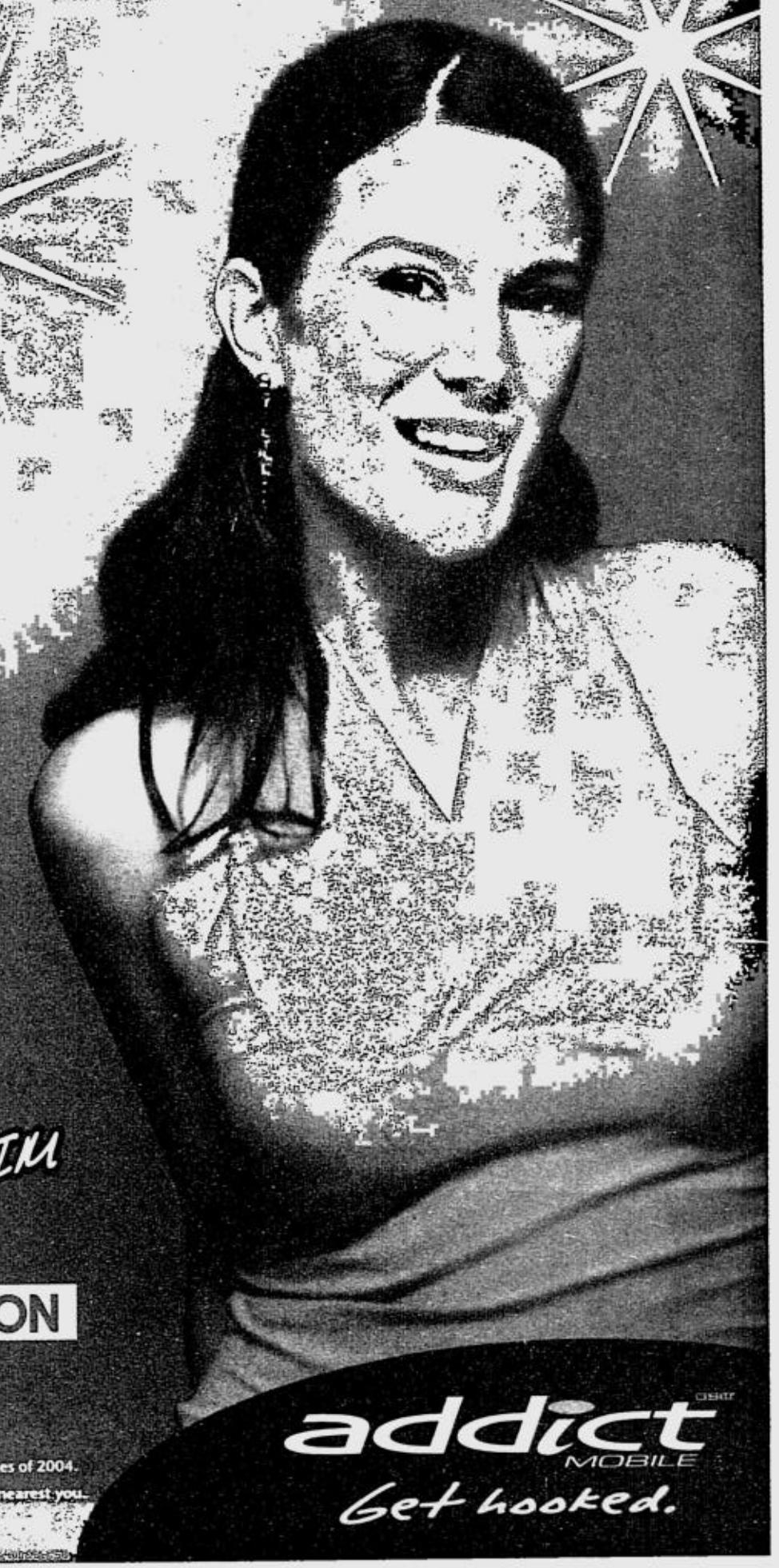

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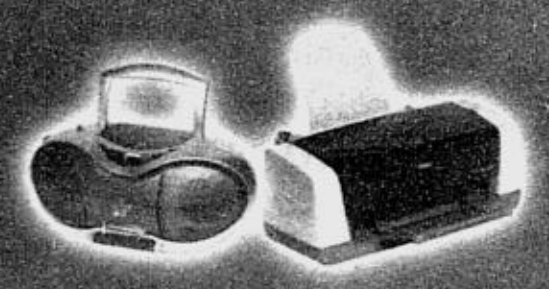

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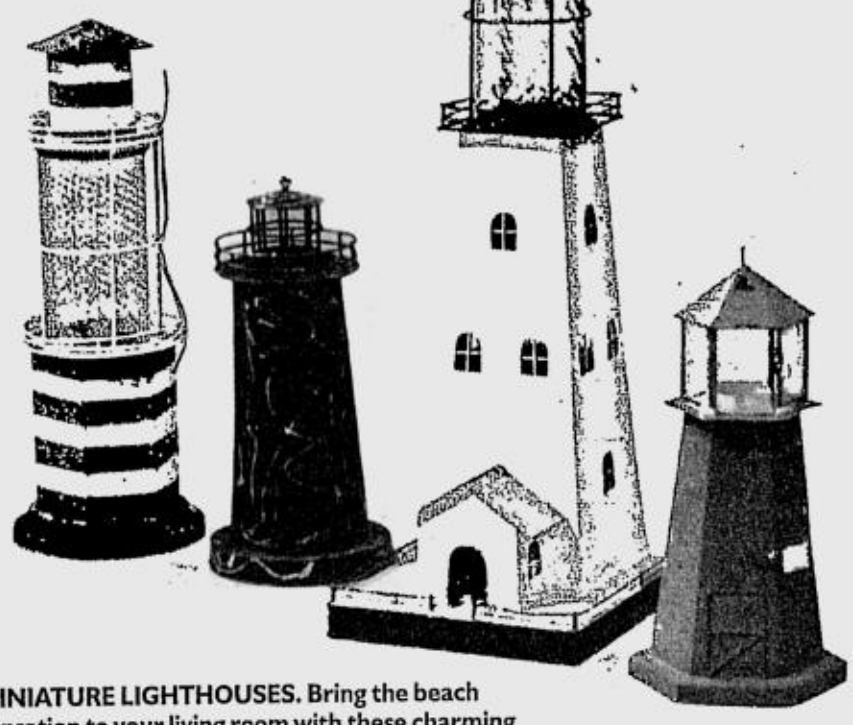
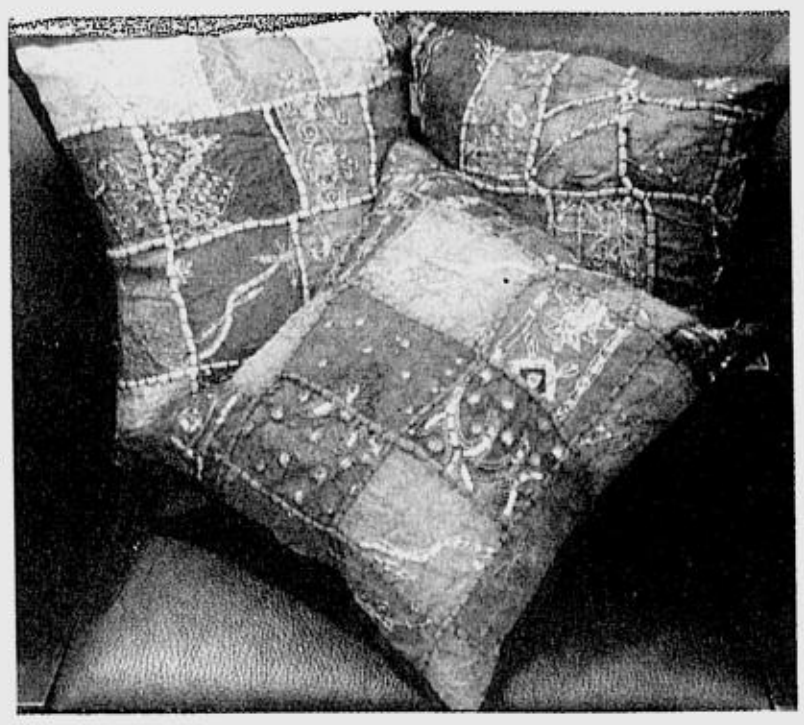
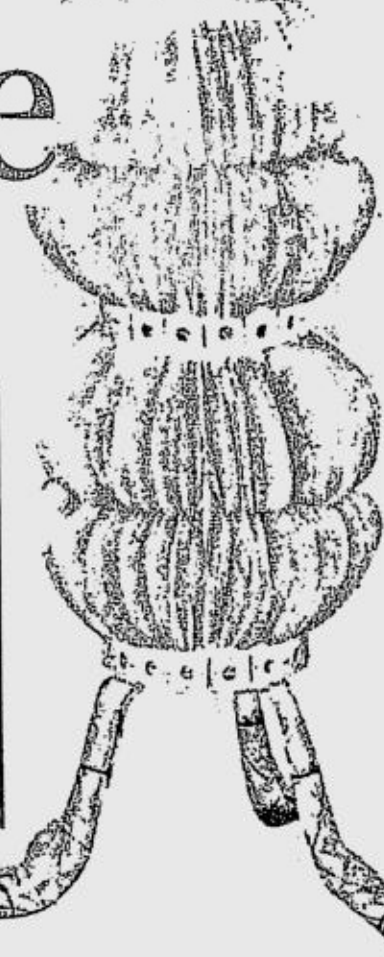


**MINIATURE LIGHTHOUSES.** Bring the beach sensation to your living room with these charming lighthouses(P450-P1,500). Available at Country Lifestyle, Robinsons Galleria East Wing (EW), level 1



**BEADED** throw pillow covers from India, P199.75 each at SM Makati Home World (HW)

**CAPIZ** blossom floor lamp at Restoration, Glorietta 4 HZ



# Ho-ho-home gifts for the holidays

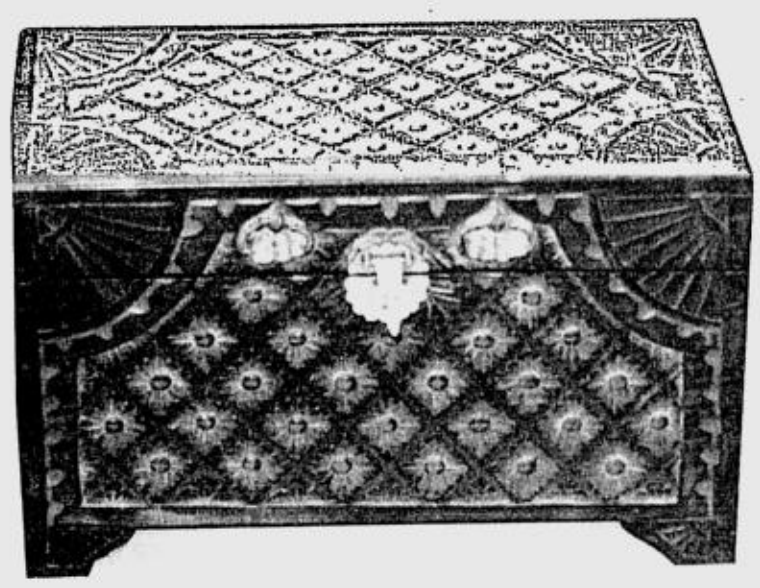
FROM our home to yours come not only glad tidings but good gift ideas.

More and more people are shopping for family gifts to save time and money this season. Luckily, there are all kinds of presents for the home, whether made in these islands or culled from markets around the world.

From interesting occasional chairs to ethnic pieces, from gleaming cookware to ceramic dinnerware, from glass to wood accents—budget is the only limit.

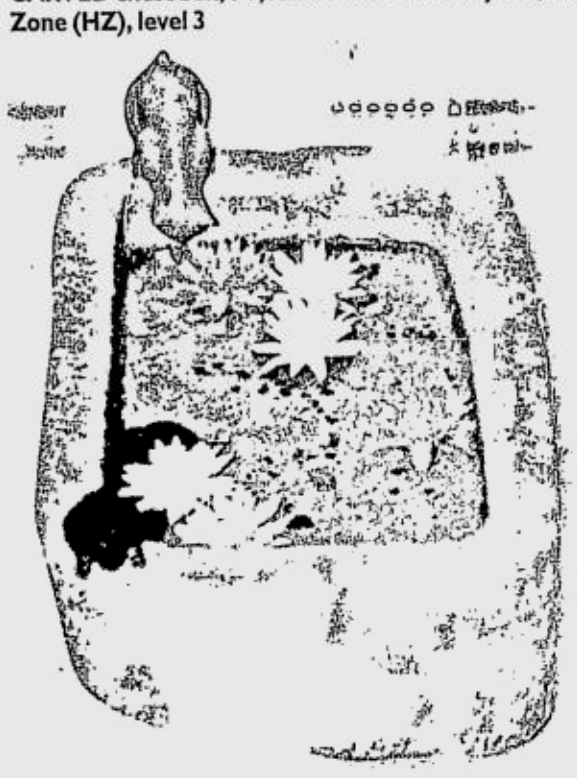
The malls are wonderful sources for presents perfect for the home because they have everything. But stand-alone home stores, too, have their virtues because they can offer off-the-wall choices.

If too bulky, just tie a red ribbon around your gift and you're all set.



**CARVED** chest box, P9,750 at Home and Beyond, Glorietta 4 Home Zone (HZ), level 3

**'KATOL'** burner goes 'sosi' in this wood and metal tray shaped like a house; available in black and brown at Borders (tel. 8130112, 8932908; fax. 8130212; e-mail: borders@info.com.ph)



**PERFECT** for an indoor garden or for floating candles, this labangan is P3,800 at Asian Finds, Glorietta 4 HZ.

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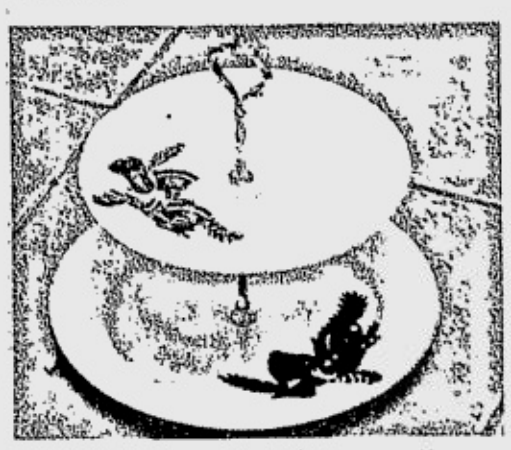
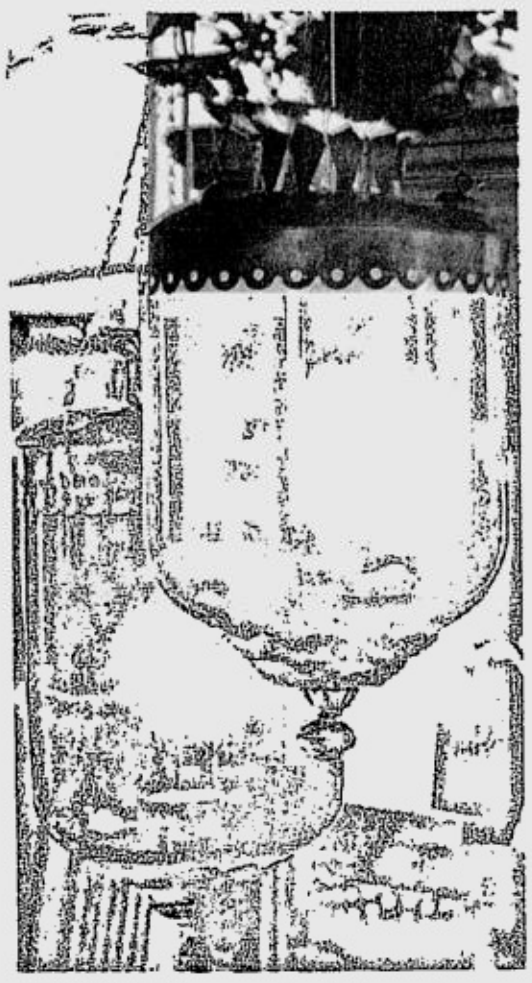


DOUBLE platter with Christmas motif (P499.75), Home Essence, Glorietta 4 HZ

FESTIVE poinsettia, butterfly and bee napkin holders (P250-350), candle holder (P650) and dragonfly (P550) all made of *bubog*, at Pnky Collection, Glorietta 4 HZ



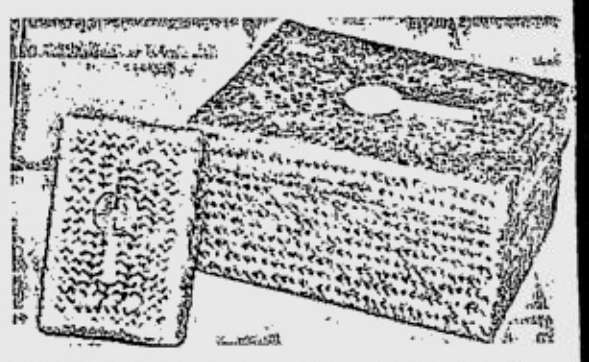
SUPERSIZED Javanese lamp in two colors, P12,950 each at Urban Effects, Glorietta 4 HZ

Presents that give comfort and joy throughout the year are always good to give and even better to receive

SLEEK CD rack in black and white, P1,995 at Dimensione, Glorietta 4 HZ

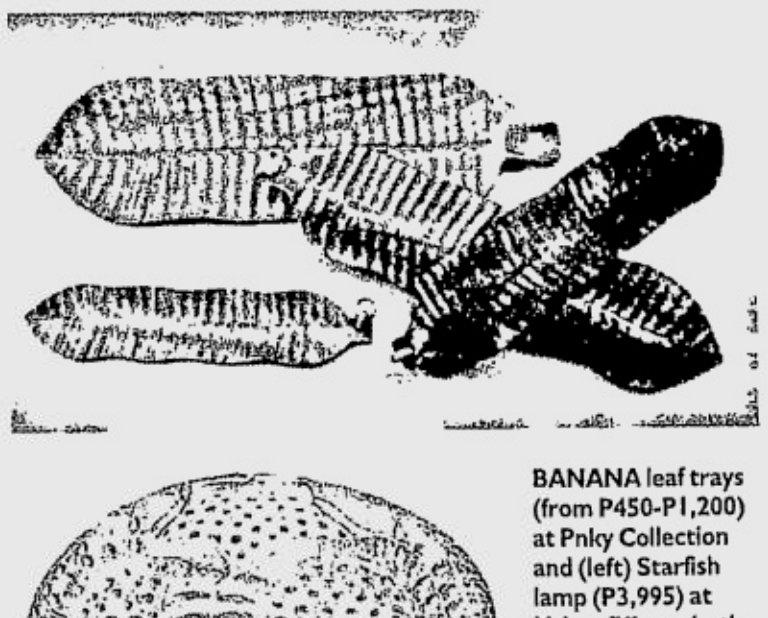
BRIGHTEN up a bedroom with Minuet quilt spread and shams from SM Makati HW.

# Ho-ho-home for the holidays

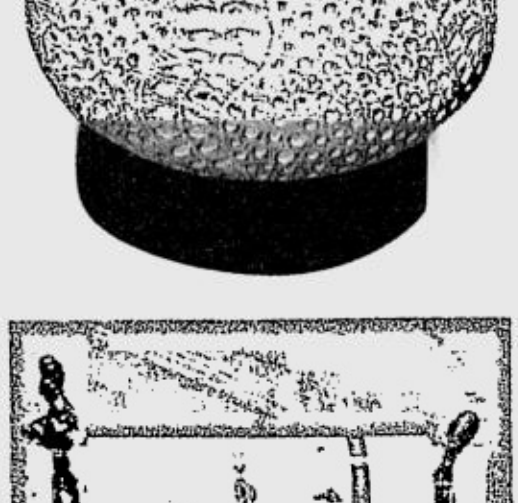


TASSLED pandan box (P650/350) at Regalong Pambahay, Glorietta 4, HZ

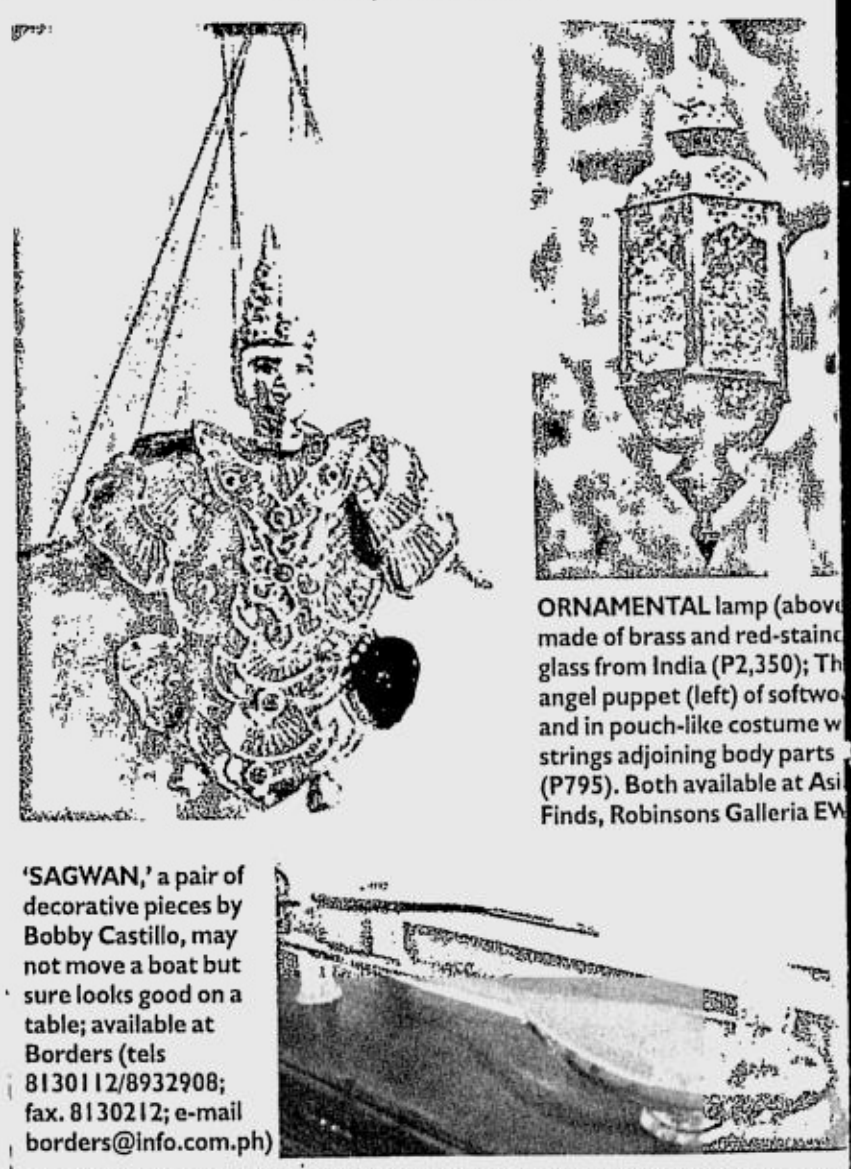
DISPLAY family photos in frames assembled into a wood divider, available at SM Makati Home World, level 3



BANANA leaf trays (from P450-P1,200) at Pnky Collection and (left) Starfish lamp (P3,995) at Urban Effects, both at Glorietta 4 HZ



COLORFUL resin towel holder, tape dispenser, even medicine chest, at Dimensione, Glorietta 4 HZ



ORNAMENTAL lamp (above made of brass and red-stain glass from India (P2,350); Th angel puppet (left) of softwo and in pouch-like costume w strings adjoining body parts (P795). Both available at Asi Finds, Robinsons Galleria EW



'SAGWAN,' a pair of decorative pieces by Bobby Castillo, may not move a boat but sure looks good on a table; available at Borders (tels 8130112/8932908; fax. 8130212; e-mail borders@info.com.ph)

PLACE setting: Japanese stoneware (P475-P1,850), bone with fish design flatware (P195 ea), nito placemat (P395), abaca placemat (P135), chopsticks (P150); all at Unica, Glorietta 4 HZ

FOR the tea drinker, Japanese ceramic tea set, P1,450 at Regalong Pambaha Glorietta 4 HZ

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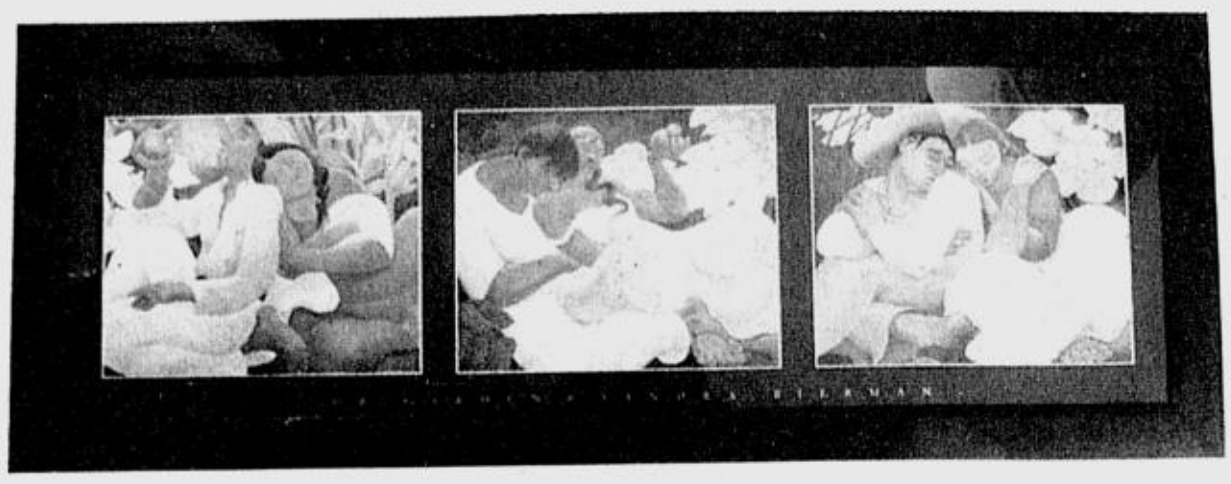
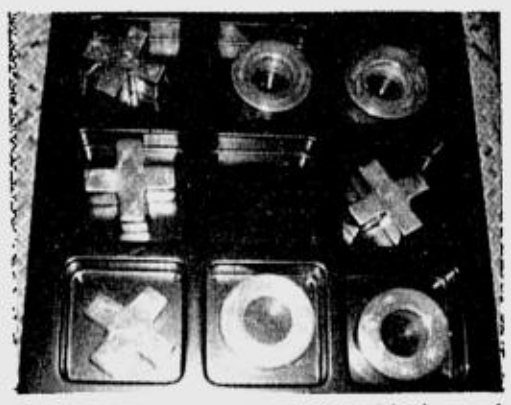
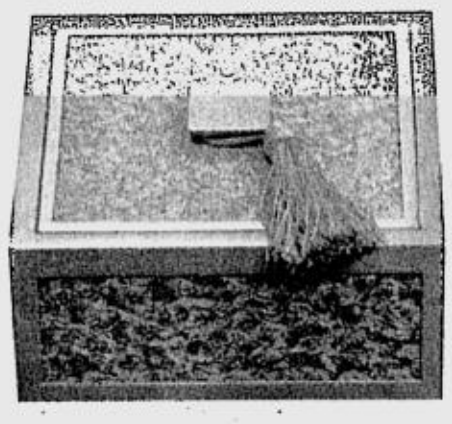
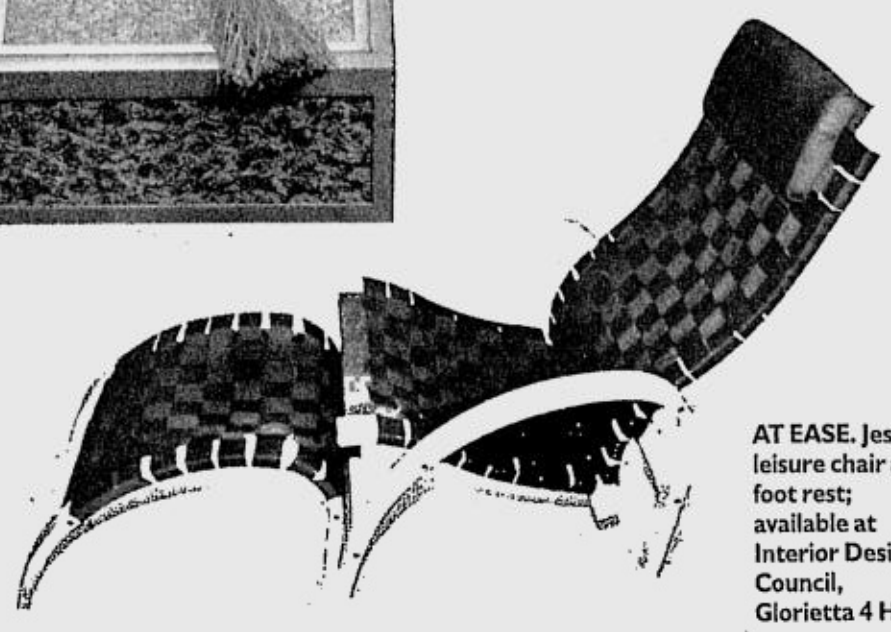




FANCY tic tac toe board made of black metal piece; available at Borders



SERIES of prints of garden scene paintings by Sandra Bearman all together in black framing and matting; at SM Makati HW; at left, red Vietnam box for storing all kinds of memories available at Dimensione at Glorietta HZ



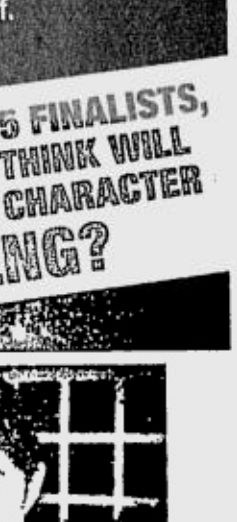
AT EASE. Jessie leisure chair and foot rest; available at Interior Design Council, Glorietta 4 HZ


The INQUIRER Character Quest

Many have dared to be discovered and exposed but **only 30** get a shot at making it to the Final 6 Characters.

You can help us decide who's in and who's out.

Vote the FINAL SIX Online or SMS



Character to be filled:
**JENG**
Occupation:
Nursing Student
Age range:
18 to 23 years old
Profile:
Sensitive and vulnerable, Jeng falls in and out of love easily, and gets hurt and affected just as easily. She immerses herself completely in all her relationships everything for the sake of love. Jeng is the type of person other people protect or love to take care of.

AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF JENG?

CODE J1 Danielle M.

CODE J2 Ivy R.

CODE J3 Karyn Y.

CODE J4 Michelle P.

CODE J5 Mitzie J.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE NOW! TEXT YOUR VOTE

Simply text ICQ <character code> <your name> <your age> and send to 09209131658.

OR GO ONLINE AT www.characterquest.com

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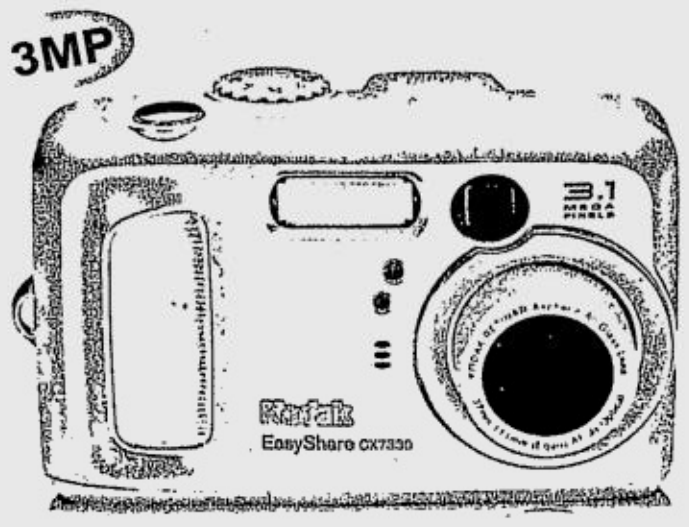


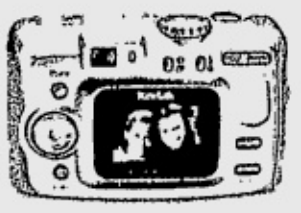

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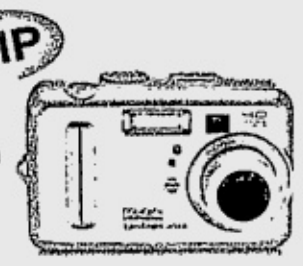

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CX 7430
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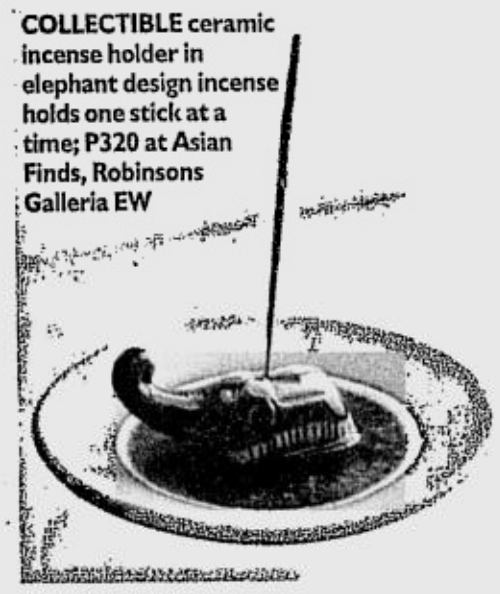

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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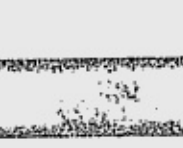

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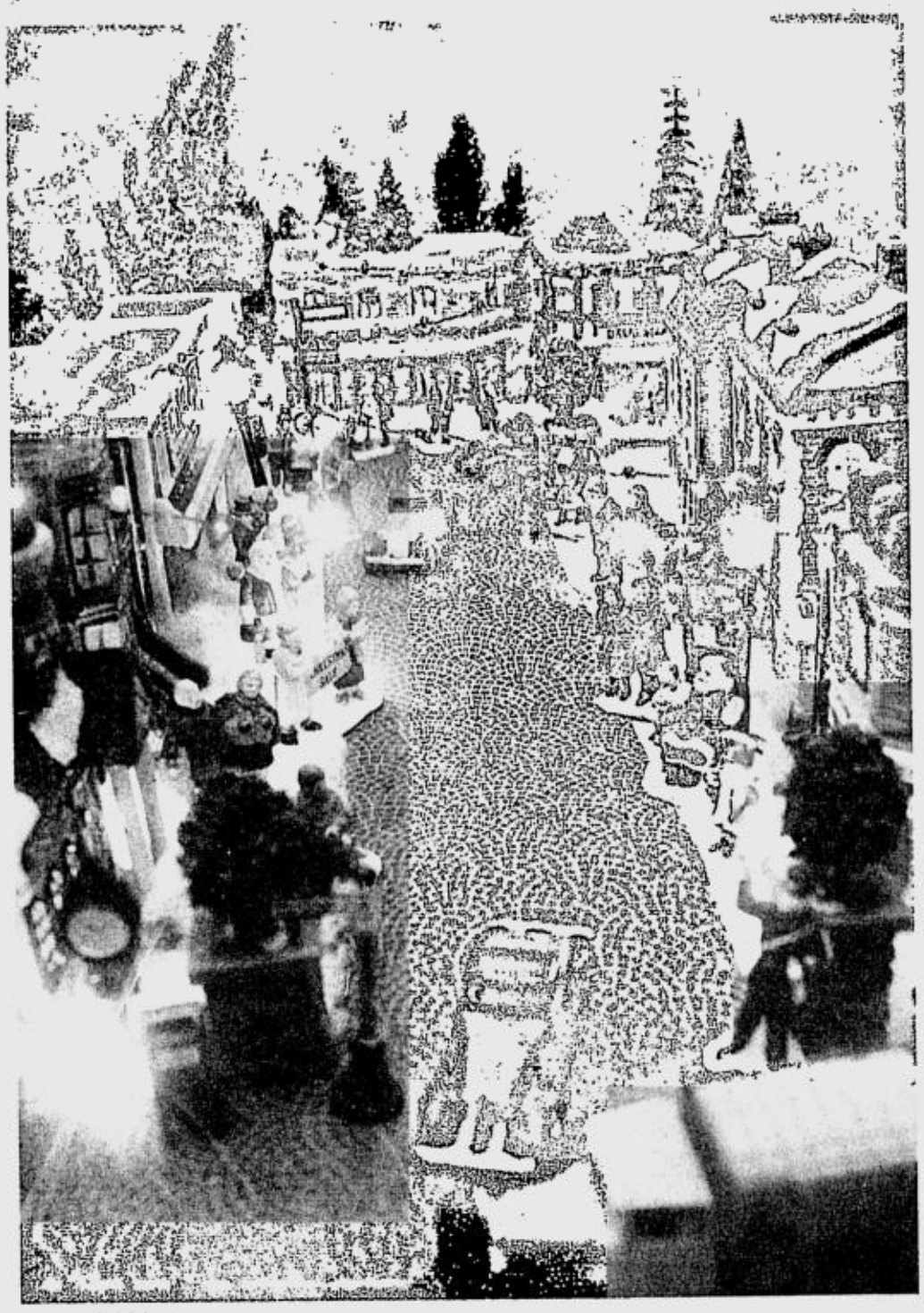


SHOPPING lane

# O little town of *Bethlehem*

## Miniature Christmas village sustains the holiday spirit

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT all started with 10 "structures" that his mother Rosario brought home from one of her trips to the United States 12 years ago. Today, businessman and former landscape artist Rene Tiongco's miniature Christmas village has grown into a virtual community with its own shopping district, school, hospital, bookstore and even a Chinese restaurant.

The Christmas village has become an annual must-see for relatives, friends and near-strangers. It occupies a prominent space—a 3-ft high presidential table, actually, draped with white table cloth—in the living room of the family's two-story home in Malate, Manila.

"The display steadily grew through the years," says Tiongco, a graduate of landscape architecture at the University of the Philippines and business partner of fashion designer Edgar Allan. "Some are genuine pieces from Department 56, a famous American brand of miniature collectibles, while others came from export overruns sold at local bazaars in Alabang and Greenhills."

### Irresistible finds

Tiongco makes it a point to scour department stores and specialty shops in the US whenever he visits his New York-based sister. His search for ideal pieces has taken him as far as Hyannis Point, Massachusetts, and Kennebunkport, Maine, where he chanced upon model hedges and mini pine trees.

A number of pieces came from friends and employees. Tiongco's salesladies, who know very well his penchant for collecting such items, pooled their money one Christmas and gifted him with a "two-story building" they had bought from a local department store. It now occupies a prominent space in the town plaza.

Prices of such items range from the unbelievably low to the outrageously expensive. There were times, for instance, when Tiongco stumbled on irresistible finds: Four unpainted houses for a dollar. Since the bargain was too good to refuse, he bought the items and didn't mind painting them once he got home.

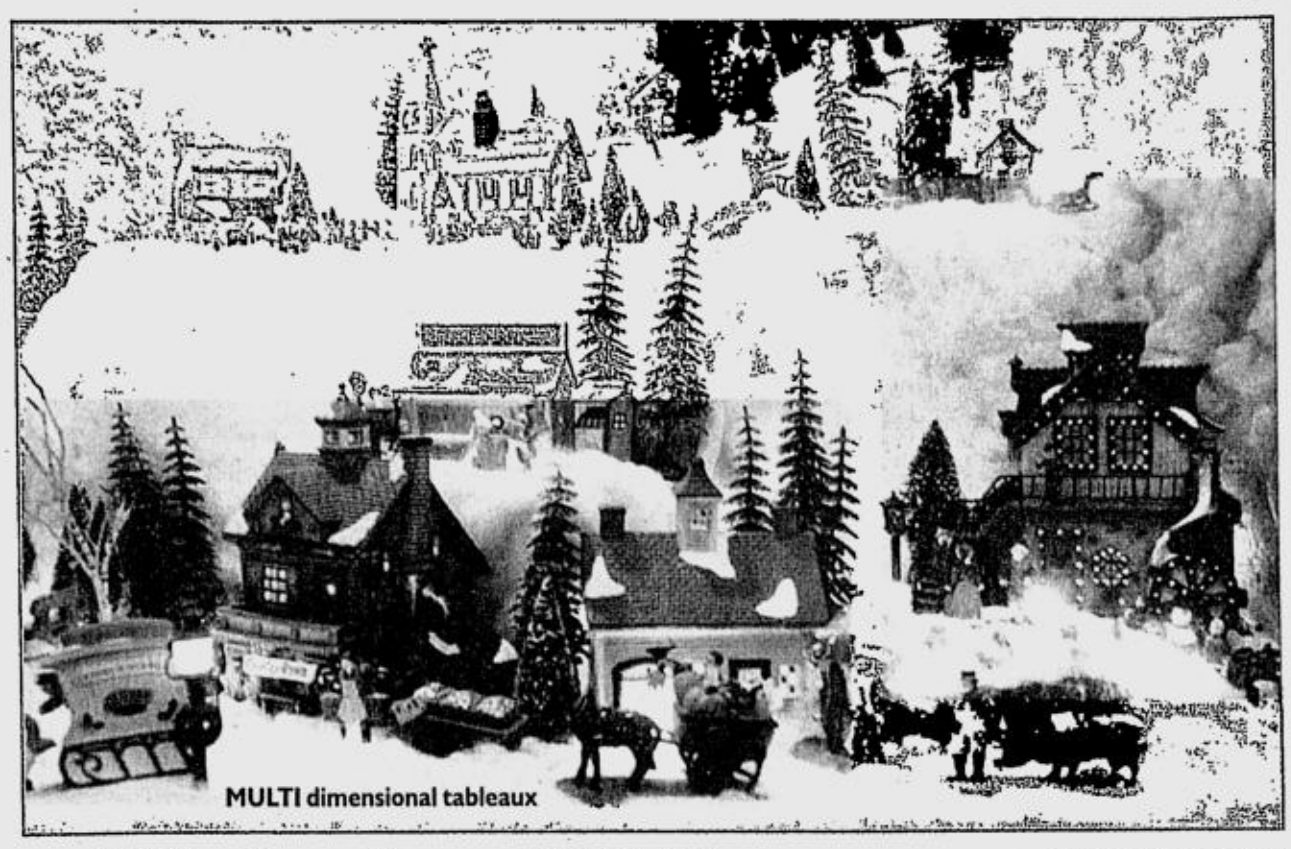
A frozen pond scene complete with human figures that glide on "ice" set him back by $75. So as not to spoil the fun, Tiongco refrains from making a full accounting of his expenses. He doesn't keep an inventory either. His mother, Rosario, brushes off the dust from each piece before putting it in its designated box soon after the New Year rolls in.

"My mom started it all," Tiongco says with a chuckle, "but I promptly took over. She knew I'd be hooked on it because I loved working on

O LITTLE/ H2

SANTA'S workshop

# O little town of *Bethlehem*


MULTI dimensional tableaux

From page H1

scale models of gardens and villages when I was in college."

## Career shift

Tiongco's career as a landscape architect was nipped in the bud when he and Allan put up a tailoring shop in Quezon City in the mid 1970s. It was the genesis of their successful partnership that led to haute couture and RTW lines for men and women.

To prepare himself for the shift, Tiongco studied fashion merchandising at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. He takes care of the business' finances, while Allan handles the creative side. Working on a mini village affords the one-time landscape artist not only a chance to relive his youth, but also to spread the holiday cheer.

Apart from the riot of colors, the display is made more festive by Yuletide tunes emanating from a dancing choir and tiny Christmas lights strategically set all over the village. Some lights are tucked underneath houses making them radiate with warmth in the "bitter cold." In lieu of real snow, Tiongco's assistants made use of soft white cotton.

Because of Tiongco's knowledge of topography and eye for detail, the display looks far from

NO school today

boring and static. Smaller houses and human figures are placed behind bigger ones, while certain structures are perched on sloping hills and mountains.

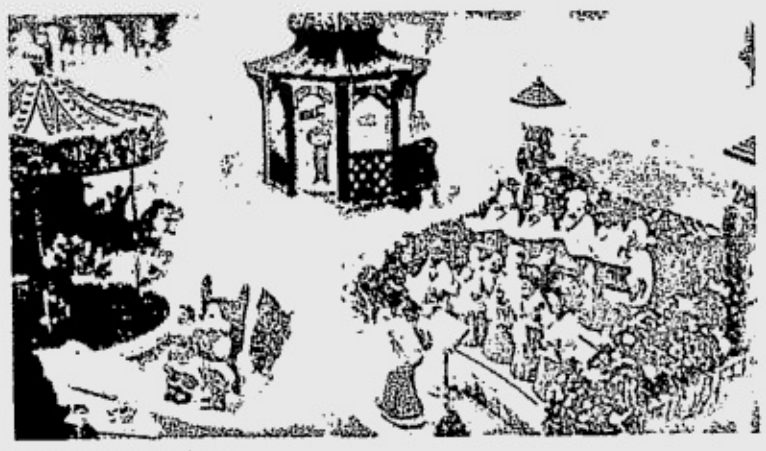
The display is also a town planner's dream: Farms, complete with Holstein cows, horses, barns and windmills, are placed in one section of the village, away from the town center's bright lights and madding crowd.

To keep the display from becoming predictable, period houses with chimneys and sloping brick roofs are positioned irregularly. Serene images such as deer crossing a stone footbridge above a frozen pond contrast with that of a group of kids frolicking on a sled sliding down an icy slope.

On top of the moving human figures that "add life" to the holiday tableaux, Tiongco didn't forget to add the de rigueur Polar Express that run along the town's outskirts. These fantasy elements, says Tiongco, are what make the Christmas village appealing to people of all ages.

CHRISTMAS means Christ.

RENE Tiongco


YULETIDE carolers

## Simple times

"Looking at it brings me back to a time when life was supposedly more simple," says Tiongco. "There were no high rises then, almost all hous-

O LITTLE/ H3

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — BREAKUP

**ACROSS**

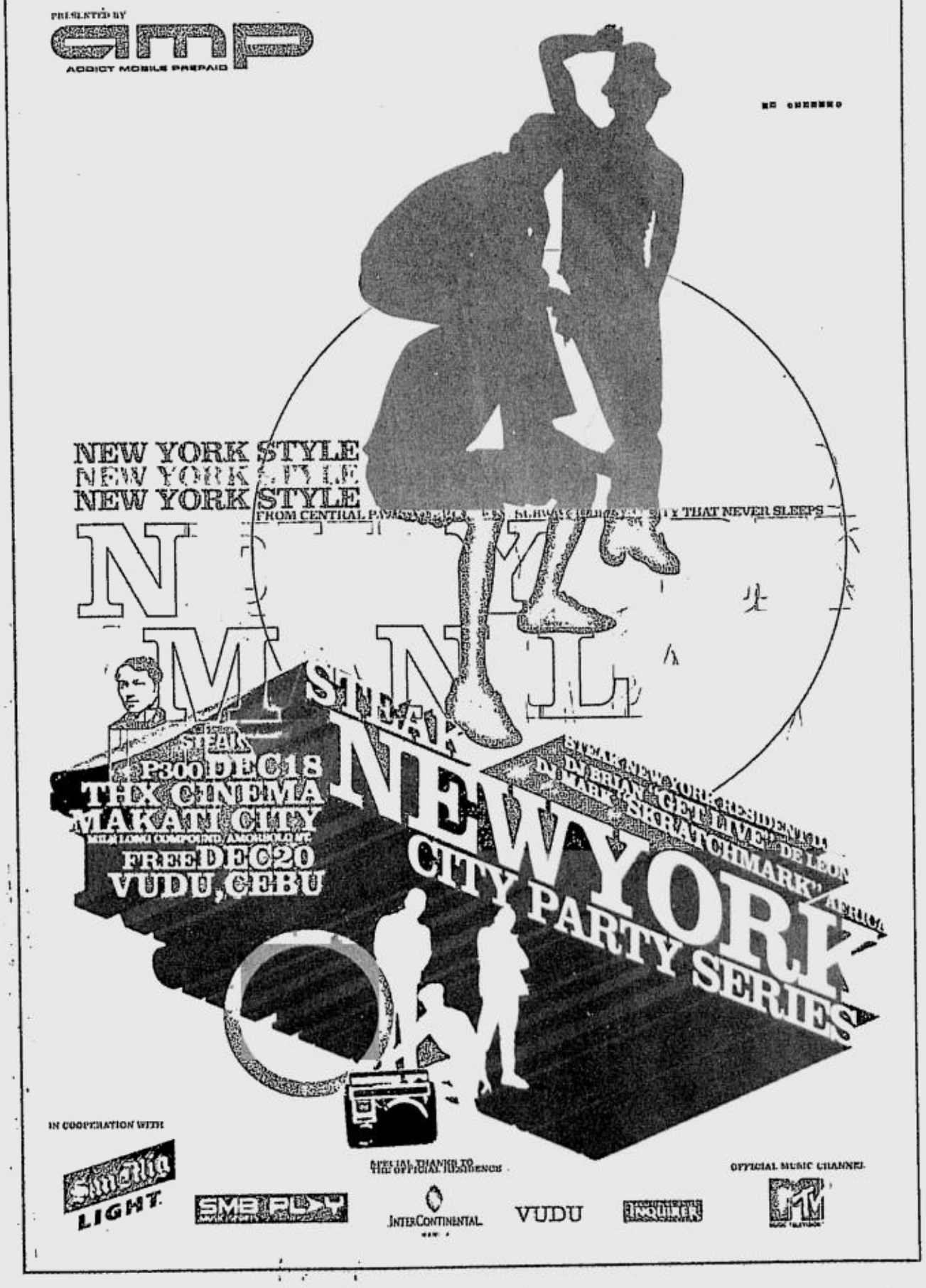
1 Monk's title
4 — -jongg
7 Ham's place
12 Break out
18 Lay back
21 Bird sound
22 Said
23 Start of a riddle
25 Leaped
26 Crime fiction genre
27 — Lanka
28 BBQ piece
30 Creepy
31 Witches
34 Riddle, part 2
38 Memory loss
40 Brian of Roxy Music
41 Skipper's "OK"
42 Riddle, part 3
51 NFLer Manning
53 Emmy winner Ward
54 Wind dir.
55 Mount in Exodus
56 Plastic film thicknesses
58 Liturgical Egyptian language
60 Trike rider
63 Rx amount
64 Historical fort in SC
66 Dub anew
69 Apprehends
71 Riddle, part 4
74 Dimwitted
77 Sawed wood
78 Strengthen
82 Describe
83 Ike's WWII command
85 Upper house
87 First Bond film
88 Online sales
90 King Kong, e.g.
93 Finish last
94 End a fast
95 Riddle, part 5
102 Mon. follower
103 "Ball —" ("South Pacific" tune)
104 Tenants
107 End of the riddle
115 "Annie —" (Scottish folk song)
116 "— ed Euridice" (Gluck opera)
117 Number between due and quattro
118 "How — you?"
119 Pleasant
120 Betrays, in a way
122 Riddle's answer
128 African fly
129 Missouri's — Mountains
130 Set of marketing materials
131 Perceived
132 Salamanders
133 — Tin Tin (TV dog)
134 — -Caps (Nestle candy)

**DOWN**

1 Lingua —
2 Break bad habits
3 Flick with chase scenes, e.g.
4 Old space station
5 Picnic pest
6 Bit of a chuckle
7 Discolor
8 Part of TNT
9 Atmosphere
10 Splendid
11 Like pixies
12 Twisty turn
13 Vatican City basilica
14 Baseball great Rod
15 Video-game pioneer
16 Encage
17 Rims
19 Lyricist Io Loewe
20 Offspring: Abbr.
24 Old hand
29 Droplet
32 Paul Anka's "— Beso"
33 Actor Alastair
35 — d'esprit (witticism)
36 Individuals
37 Henna, e.g.
39 Lhasa —
43 Printing proof, for short
44 Changes
45 Get closer to
46 Surfing site?
47 Dilated
48 Seth's son
49 Conde —
50 Laces up
51 Ambulance org.
52 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
57 Containing tin
58 Origami bird
59 Mafia bosses
61 Granola bit
62 Cree, e.g.
65 Janet Jackson's label
67 Nothing more than
68 Previously, in poetry
70 Fish-to-be
72 747, e.g.
73 Very little, as salt
74 Pub orders
75 In — (in its original habitat)
76 Apple computer
79 — of Hollywood
80 Spanish article
81 Crock, e.g.
84 Galoot
86 Really run
89 Free
91 "Sheesh! Give me a break!"
92 Israeli airline
96 "Boy" of song
97 Religious offshoot
98 Ignited
99 — Aviv
100 Genetic helix
101 Apple's all-in-one music player
105 Having a high concentration of
106 Looks after
107 Harbors
108 Remove all traces of
109 Frequently
110 Nudniks
111 Fiery felony
112 Listens attentively
113 Time of history
114 Shea team
121 Homer Simpson's neighbor
123 Fido's foot
124 Technique
125 Jug handle
126 Roman 151
127 Buddhist discipline



answer on page G3



# Peace finds a place in Antipolo

**SEEING GREEN**

*Doris Gaskell Nuyda*

I'VE been visiting forests these past months without really planning to. The invitations just come, it seems, and they have made Christmas this year truly meaningful for me.

For what greater gift can one receive than to have the chance to admire beautiful tall trees and leafy surroundings, when elsewhere in the world and right in this country, mountains seem to be crumbling. If we may hazard a pun, it is in the wild that one often finds serenity.

God created everything for us, and we must reciprocate by appreciating those gifts and using them wisely.

Just a few days ago, we revisited, after five years, the Pacem Assumption Antipolo Eco-Park. Pacem stands for Peace and Care of the Earth Ministry.

## Environmental haven

The Eco-Park, the environmental haven in the hills of Antipolo, has several features. It has an Eco Center where one finds the only butterfly museum in the country, exhibit areas for shell and bug collections, an audiovisual room where documentaries and videos on different ecological subjects are shown, as well as wildlife, butterfly and dragonfly sanctuaries, an aviary, organic farm, herbal garden, and facilities for conferences, seminars and retreats. The center also has a restaurant and eco-shop.

Everything is a walk away from the school buildings screened from view by a mini forest. Many of the features still need to be completed, but already they are covered with plants and flowers. Butterflies and dragonflies flit by visitors as they emerge from their breeding stands.

When the Assumption community here decided to focus on the ecology in 1987, the Antipolo property was deemed the ideal location for establishing an environmentally sustainable school campus. Spearheading the project as environmental director was Sr. Luz Emmanuel Soriano, RA, who subsequently set up Pacem.

## Peace advocate

Involved in ecological matters since 1980, she was named president of the Philippine Council for Peace and Global Education, a position she still holds today, even as she works for the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and other socio-civic organizations.

Sister Luz has authored two books. "Save Mother Earth-What.Schools Can Do" is meant for teachers while "Sustainable Development: Philippine Perspective" is for college use.

She is currently finishing a third, a sequel to "Save Mother Earth" and this time for households.

After 17 years of tireless planning and overseeing, what else does Sister Luz have in store for the Eco-Park? we ask. Being the perfectionist that she is, there does not seem to be an end to her dreams for this project.

She wants better facilities for the birds and other wildlife in the mini zoo. They are too cramped and out of their element in their cages, she says.

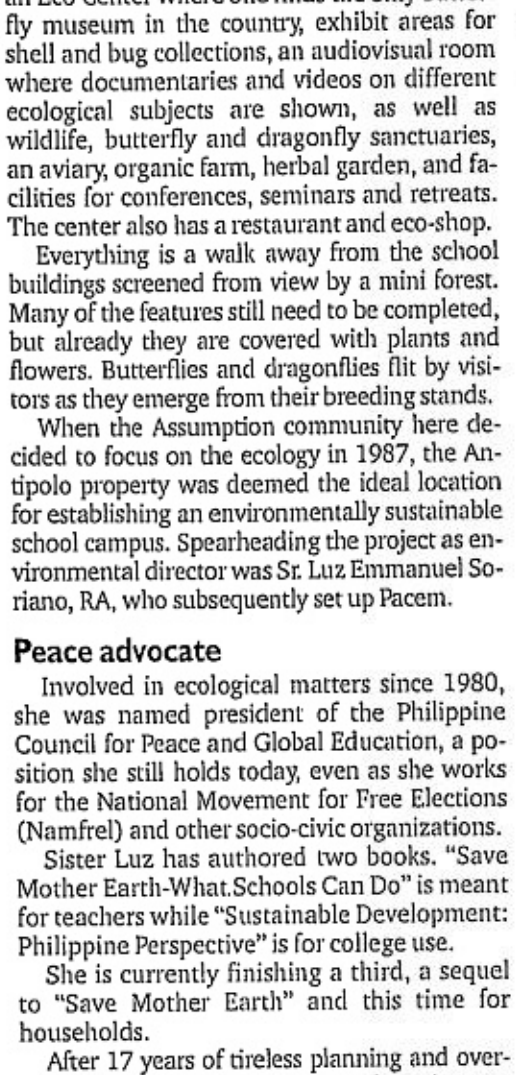
Then, of course, there is her all-encompassing dream—to see the Eco-Park really achieve its goal of making the entire campus environmentally sustainable, where students, teachers, school administrators as well as parents can learn about environmental issues and how this planet can be saved from mindless destruction.

To widen the scope of this project and ensure its faster completion, the Assumption Antipolo community has opened its Pacem Eco-Park to other students and visitors so they may "experience the beauty of nature, contemplate on and understand God's creation."

As Sister Luz once said, "If man is not at peace with God, then Earth itself cannot be at peace." May we all be blessed with peace this season.

*E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com*

SR. Luz Soriano, RA, at the entrance to Assumption Antipolo's Butterfly Museum



YOUNG visitors shown at the Dragonfly Sanctuary are part of the 16,000 students who have visited the eco-park since last June.

# O little town

From page H2

es were small and everybody knew each other. It's my idea of an ideal world."

Even the display's stationery figures ring with amusing and heart-warming vignettes. A mother and her infant, for instance, are being wheeled by a nurse outside the hospital as a man, supposedly the woman's husband, eagerly waits for them outside the entrance with a bouquet of flowers.

Then there's a man who sits on a park bench beside a newsstand, unmindful of the world around him as he savors the morning news. And what about the excited throng as they await the annual lighting of the Christmas tree? They have every reason to feel thrilled as they had waited all year to witness this event.

Amid the festive glow, Tiongco doesn't forget the main reason people celebrate Christmas. If he were to single out a structure that the village can't do without, he'd point out the Catholic cathedral behind the town center.

"That's the main reason we celebrate Christmas," he says. "We mark the birth of Christ our redeemer. That's why the cathedral as well as the two other smaller churches occupy strategic spots in my village."

Thus, Christ takes centerstage in Tiongco's Yuletide wonderland.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

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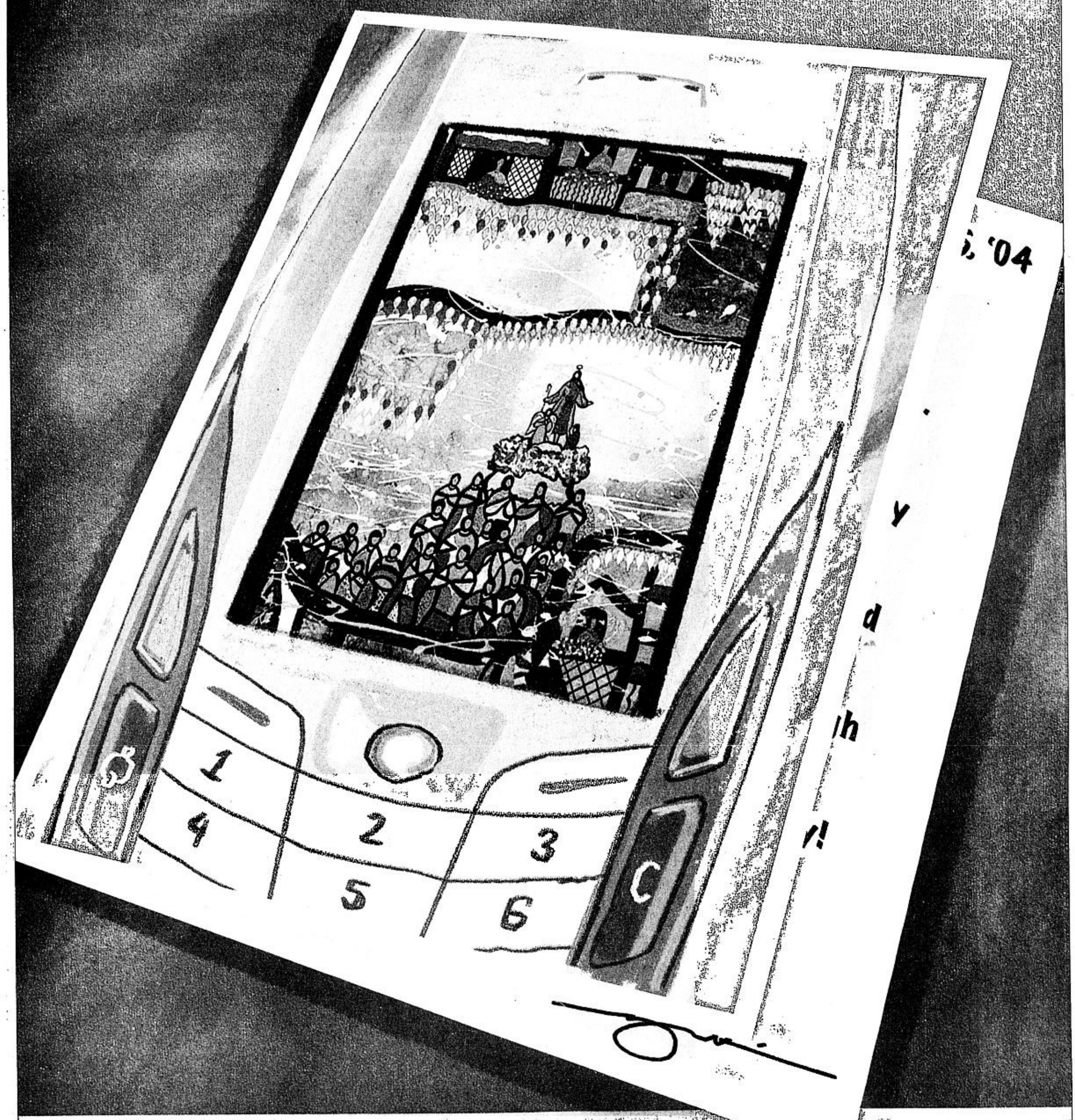


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# Resorts great and small

HIDDEN Valley's majestic Hidden Falls

**Laguna casts a spell upon the urbanite with its spring waters, forest canopies, lakeshore areas, Makiling the magic mountain, and upland and lowland resorts**

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
*Contributor*

THE METROPOLIS is encroaching on San Pedro, Santa Rosa and Biñan; and malls, fast-food outlets and subdivisions are mushrooming here.

Beyond these towns in Laguna, however, much of the province remains pastoral and verdant, casting a spell upon the urbanite: Spring waters, forest canopies, lakeshore areas, Makiling the magic mountain, and upland and lowland resorts.

Overlooking Laguna de Bay, Asia's largest freshwater lake, is manmade Lake Caliraya, which has God-made trees and an altitude of 300 meters, attracting windsurfers and other aquasports buffs.

There are several resorts here. French colleaques Dominique Grelé and Lily Jouve recommend Lagos del Sol (along with 99 other resorts all over the country). "The resort is surrounded by forest and there is an introductory route to get to know the different tree species," they report.

At the edge of the lake, you get a full view of Mt. Makiling, which is cool and mist-laden at this time of the year. For nontrekkers as well as trekkers, the place to pitch camp here is the National Arts Center (NAC), which is beside the Philippine High School for the Arts.

The NAC has fine vistas of the surrounding landscape and seascape. There are guest cottages, a kidney-shaped swimming pool near the cafeteria (you can bring your own food), and facilities for seminars, conferences and big receptions.

Then there's the posh Executive Guesthouse, which includes a private swimming pool, regular rooms along with a deluxe suite, and kitchen. This used to be the exclusive preserve of the Imeldific One and her coterie.

NAC bookings have to be done with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (tel. 8321125).

## Blandishments

We are now in the lowlands, traveling along the Calamba-Los Baños route, with its bewildering number of hot spring resorts announcing private swimming pools and other blandishments.

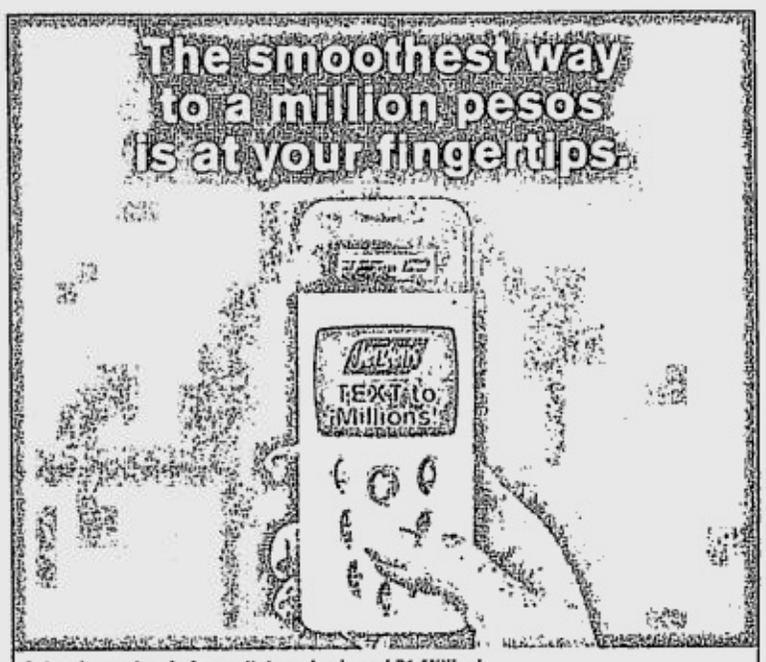
One, Crystal Springs, a family resort, merits more than a passing interest despite its modern architecture, which does not turn me on.

The attraction is the Water World, a series of eight thermal pools with temperatures ranging from hot to lukewarm to cold. There's a Cascade Pool, a Bubbling Pool, and so on. The pools are visually attractive, accented by boulders, sculptural rock formations and cascading waters.

Oh yes, don't forget Pagsanjan and shooting the rapids up to the main falls. This may be much ballyhooed but it is still an exciting ride, especially during the wet months. Places to stay here include the Pagsanjan Rapids Hotel, the Pagsanjan Falls Lodge & Summer Resort, and the Pagsanjan Garden Resort.

A cultural showpiece is Villa Escudero in San Pablo, "the city of seven lakes," near Tiaong, Quezon. Here you can ride in a

RESORTS/12



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Age range:
20 to 25 years old
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Driven and ambitious, Gian may not be in the big league now but he expects to be. A working student, he sees everything he does now as a mere stepping stone to his future. Known to be goal-oriented, Gian relies on gut feel and will not hesitate to use brawn over brains to get what he wants.

AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF GIAN?

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CODE G2
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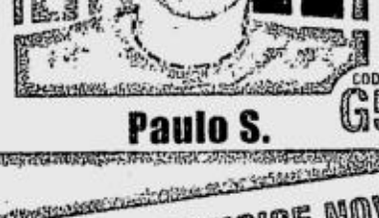
CODE G3
Jingo P.

CODE G4
Miguel A.



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Paulo S.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER




# Resorts great and small

From page 11

carabao-driven cart or cruise down the lake—bracketed by coconut-palm trees and big, native-style cottages on stilts—on a bamboo raft.

The lake leads to a manmade dam in front of which you partake of steaming Filipino dishes with the spring waters swirling around your bare feet. The resort-plantation also has an impressive museum built in the style of an old Laguna church, and an auditorium where cultural shows are presented.

My favorite resort in Laguna, if not the whole of Luzon mainland, is Hidden Valley Springs (tel. 8184034), which lies in the Alaminos-Calauan boundary 75 km south of Makati City.

It is a 90-minute ride from Alabang, maybe less. Take Exit 52 of the South Expressway, passing through Calamba and Tanauan, Batangas, in the direction of San Pablo City and Quezon.

Alaminos is right after Tanauan. Turn left at the Alaminos Plaza and follow the arrows leading to the resort. (Car-less commuters like me have to take a tricycle at the Alaminos public market which costs P100.) The 5-km route, once a dirt road, is now cemented for the most part.

## Fascinating history

The birth of the valley makes for fascinating natural history. It is said that eons ago, fiery volcanic upheavals formed a 110-acre crater more than 300 ft deep. Scores of springs, with varying temperatures, were unleashed. And trees and plants emerged, "undisturbed for centuries." At the edge of the crater was created a hidden waterfall.

Before the coming of the Spaniards, Chinese traders were the first to explore the virgin rainforest. It is said that their trails still exist by the hidden waterfall, which at one time was home to strange white bats.

The valley blooms with more than 150 species of plants. It is owned by the descendants of Don Eufrociño Roxas, who purchased the property in 1918.

A distinct feature of the resort are the tall *amlang* trees, some 200 years old, with trunks which taper down gracefully into a huge cone-shaped base. It would take quite a number of people to encircle the base. The history of the biggest *amlang* tree has merited a plaque, but the letterings are now too faded to read.

Also noteworthy are the bridges and the comfortable cottages, known as deluxe casitas, which blend with the natural surroundings. Their floors are made of sturdy *molave* planks that are old and discarded railroad tracks.

200-year-old amlang tree

WARM pool by night at Hidden Valley

HIDDEN Falls' mighty cascades

The pools are what bring in the crowds, mostly South Korean and Filipino families, especially during weekends. There's the Warm Pool, Soda Pool (lukewarm) and the so-called Lovers' Pool (cold), which is actually the most plain of the watering holes.

It's the Warm Pool for me! The spring waters here, which flow unceasingly downstream, are really refreshing and invigorating, despite the rainshowers and the cool weather these days.

This is actually a series of pools, circular, oval and horizontal in shape, with mini-waterfalls amid a gorgeous landscape. You are surrounded by greens, ferns, trees, stone embankments, boulders and sculptural rocks, plants, flowers and giant leaves. The Soda Pool is another area popular with guests.

And then, of course, there is the Hidden Falls, accessible only via a 15-minute hike through the foot trails of the forest, dotted by *amlang* trees. The tourists like to take their souvenir shots here. There's foliage all around, a cliff to your right and a shallow ravine to your left.

Soon you will hear the onrushing waters of the falls. You descend some 80 steps, down into the gorge, turn right and—behold—there is the Hidden Falls in all its secluded majesty, back-dropped by the trees and the ancient, massive walls of stone.

Swimming is forbidden here, for the current is swift and the waters, during a downpour, have been known to rise suddenly.

It's exhilarating to view the Hidden Falls again after several years. This is, after all, the piece de resistance of Hidden Valley Springs.

# TravelBriefs

## Romblon resort offers discounts

AGLICAY Beach Resort in Alcantara, Tablas Island, Romblon, is offering a 15-percent discount on its rates until March 15.

Visit the website http://geocities.com/aglicaybeachresort, or call its Manila office at 4535410, 9375064 or 0919-6346708.

## Alternative to Baguio

JANE Jarabe, Tagaytay Picnic Grove's (TPG) new resident manager, aims to help make the resort city a true alternative to Baguio.

Tagaytay is much closer to Manila, sparing Metro Manilans the hassle of a long drive. It boasts of a cool climate and a panoramic view of the Taal Lake and its volcano. Jarabe hopes to make TPG cleaner and greener as a picnic grove should be with the planting of more trees.

Call the Office of Tourism Information at 5251805/5360496, telefax 5256538.

## Early Christmas treats

LOCAL residents and balikbayan guests get early Christmas treats. until Jan. 10 from Linden Suites.

Room rates are P2,005 net for an Executive Room, P3,005 net for a One-Bedroom Executive, and P4,005 net for a Two-Bedroom Executive. Guests also have a chance to win free round-trip plane tickets for two and two nights' stay in Boracay.

Receive Christmas goodies from Real Living Magazine, Universal Records, Nivea, Playtex Feminine Wipes, Little Tikes, Jellyace, Kobe Crunch, Chubs Baby Wipes, W.I.T.C.H., K-Zone, Total Gurl and MonsterAllergy. New Year's eve dinner features singer Christian Bautista.

Call 6387878 or visit www.lindensuites.com.

## Special treat for locals

MANDARIN Oriental has special holiday packages for local residents.

Single or double occupancy start at P3,200++ in a superior room; P3,400++ in a deluxe room; and, P3,600 in a premier room.

Packages are inclusive of Oriental breakfast at Tin Hau, welcome fruit tray, daily provision of local newspapers, two bottles of mineral water per day, in-room coffee/tea-making facilities, complimentary use of the health club facilities (gym, sauna, and pool), and complimentary local calls. Rates are valid until Jan. 5.

For Mandarin Oriental Club rooms, rates start at P5,500++, inclusive of an executive breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and all-day refreshments at the exclusive Club Lounge; complimentary use of a Club boardroom for two hours, unlimited daily access to SPEEDConnect broadband at a minimal rate for Internet use, complimentary pressing of one suit/dress per day, and dedicated concierge services.

In keeping with the hotel's "White Christmas" theme, the hotel simulates a snowfall 7-10 p.m., Dec. 24-25; and 12 nn-2 p.m., on Christmas Day at the hotel's entrance canopy and Paseo Uno windows with Santa Claus in attendance.

"Snowfall" will be repeated 7-10 p.m., Dec. 31.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Day Holy Masses be celebrated 10 p.m., Dec. 24, in the ballroom, and 11 a.m., Jan. 1, at the Captain's Bar. Call 1-800-1888-4524 or 7508888 local 2304. E-mail momnl-reservations@mohg.com or visit www.mandarinoriental.com.

# *Travel tips*

TRAVEL Club, the store for luggage and travel accessories, offers some helpful tips for travelers:

- Anticipate security procedures in all airports or ports-of-entry. More time is needed to complete security checks. This is especially so during peak travel seasons when queues are longer and inspections are more thorough.
- Be in the airport well ahead of your scheduled flight. Allot more time for airport transfer and add a comfortable lead time for security and baggage checks and document control.
- Organize travel documents and travel essentials and carry them with you. With today's tighter security, they have to be presented at various stages of the trip. The chances of losing these increase. Organize all important items like travel documents, credit cards, cash, cell phones, inside an easy to carry bag or traveling pouch. These are light and compact carry-ons with compartments that can accommodate essential papers in an orderly fashion. Bigger carry-ons have room for an extra set of light clothing and personal effects as insurance in case your luggage gets lost in transit.
- Know your destination. Learn the latest travel advisories, security policies for visitors, health warnings, local laws and other pertinent information. Travel guides and web sites provide helpful tips on information of such nature.
- Invest on luggage that is both stylish and functional. Traveling in style is one of the fun aspects of traveling. But luggage also has to be functional and durable. The luggage should be able to help maintain a well-packed wardrobe that is kept relatively wrinkle-free and easy to manage during inspections. It should be easy to handle and has great mobility during long walks in the airport, keeping in shape despite numerous bumps and falls.

The Travel Club has the right luggage for you. It has branches in almost all SM malls, Greenhills, Shangri-La Plaza, Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center, Market! Market! Bonifacio Global City, Ayala Center Cebu and Robinsons Bacolod.

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# Globelines

## Starting January 5, Globelines to Globelines calls anywhere in the country will be free.

Effective January 5, 2005, Globelines Postpaid subscribers will no longer be charged National Direct Dialing charges for calls made from their Globelines Postpaid phones to any other Globelines phone nationwide. This will not apply to payphone and Globelines Prepaid. For inquiries and subscription, call our Customer Care Hotline at (02) 919-8888 in Luzon or (032) 410-8888 in Visayas & Mindanao or visit our Globelines Payments and Services Centers listed below:

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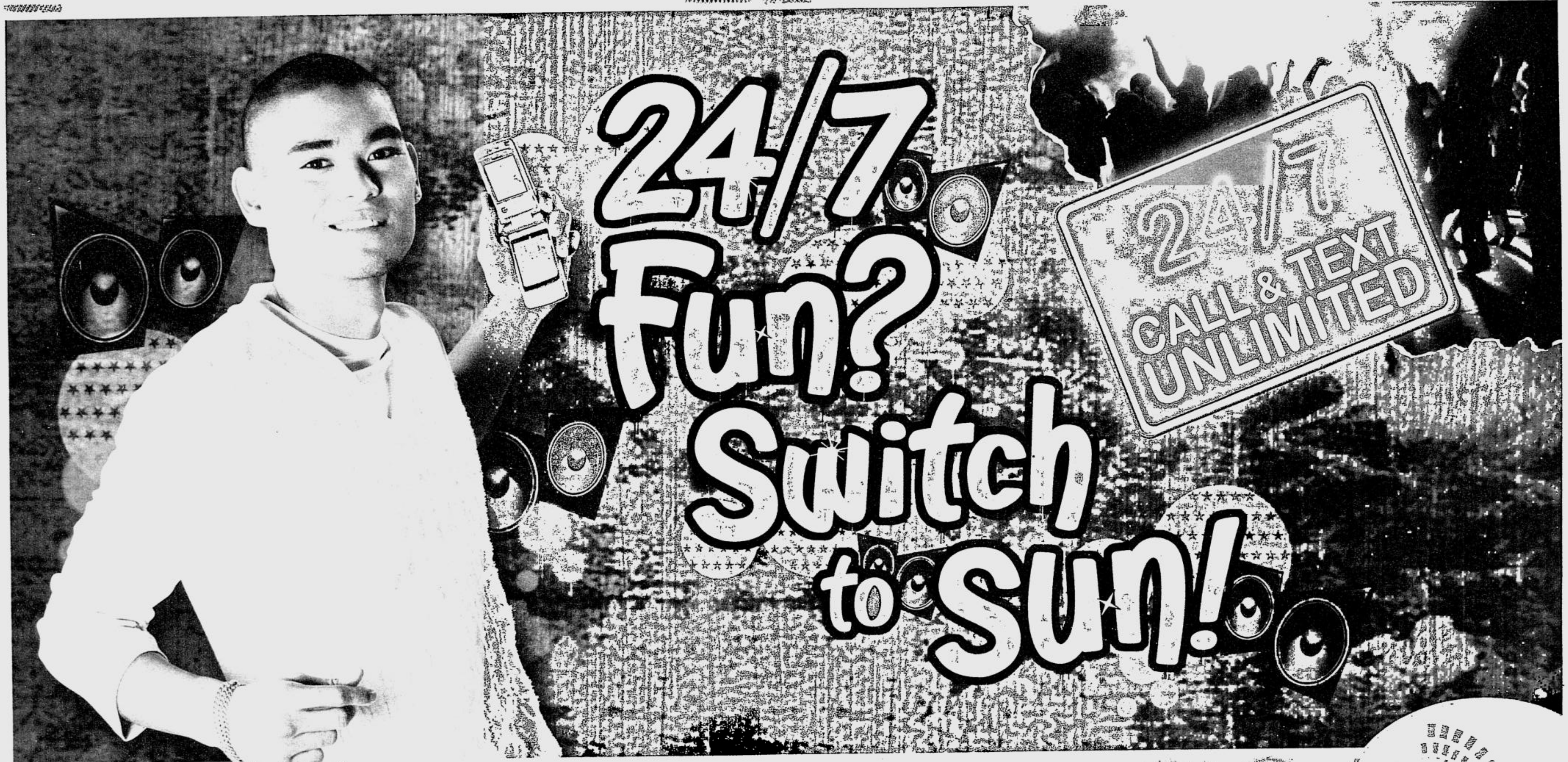

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MENCHU Lopez, Baby Araneta-Fores, Araneta Group of Companies Executive Vice President Judy Araneta-Roxas, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Jorge Araneta, Stella Marquez Araneta, and Bienvenido Tantoco Jr.

CHARY Araneta, Barbie Schlander, Tefel Pesigan, Diether Ocampo, Sherelen Robleza, Riza Pinpinio and Chol Hilado

# Shopping center out to regain old glory

ARANETA Center in Quezon City tries to regain its status as a prominent shopping center with the opening of Gateway.

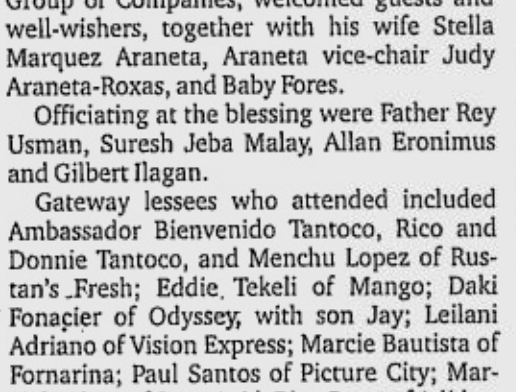
Touted as a mall like no other in the world, Araneta Center's flagship mall houses some of the top brands, shops, restaurants, and commercial establishments in the country.

Jorge Araneta, president of the Araneta Group of Companies, welcomed guests and well-wishers, together with his wife Stella Marquez Araneta, Araneta vice-chair Judy Araneta-Roxas, and Baby Fores.

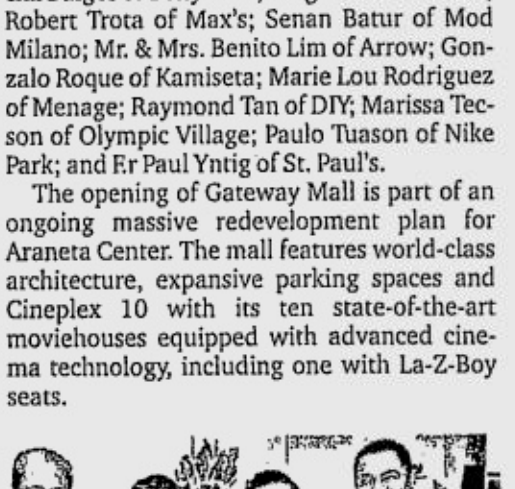
Officiating at the blessing were Father Rey Usman, Suresh Jeba Malay, Allan Eronimus and Gilbert Ilagan.

Gateway lessees who attended included Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, Rico and Donnie Tantoco, and Menchu Lopez of Rustan's Fresh; Eddie Tekeli of Mango; Daki Fonacier of Odyssey, with son Jay; Leilani Adriano of Vision Express; Marcie Bautista of Fornarina; Paul Santos of Picture City; Marcial Balgos of Sony Avid; Bing Paras of Adidas; Robert Trota of Max's; Senan Batur of Mod Milano; Mr. & Mrs. Benito Lim of Arrow; Gonzalo Roque of Kamiseta; Marie Lou Rodriguez of Menage; Raymond Tan of DIY; Marissa Tecson of Olympic Village; Paulo Tuason of Nike Park; and Fr Paul Yntig of St. Paul's.

The opening of Gateway Mall is part of an ongoing massive redevelopment plan for Araneta Center. The mall features world-class architecture, expansive parking spaces and Cineplex 10 with its ten state-of-the-art moviehouses equipped with advanced cinema technology, including one with La-Z-Boy seats.



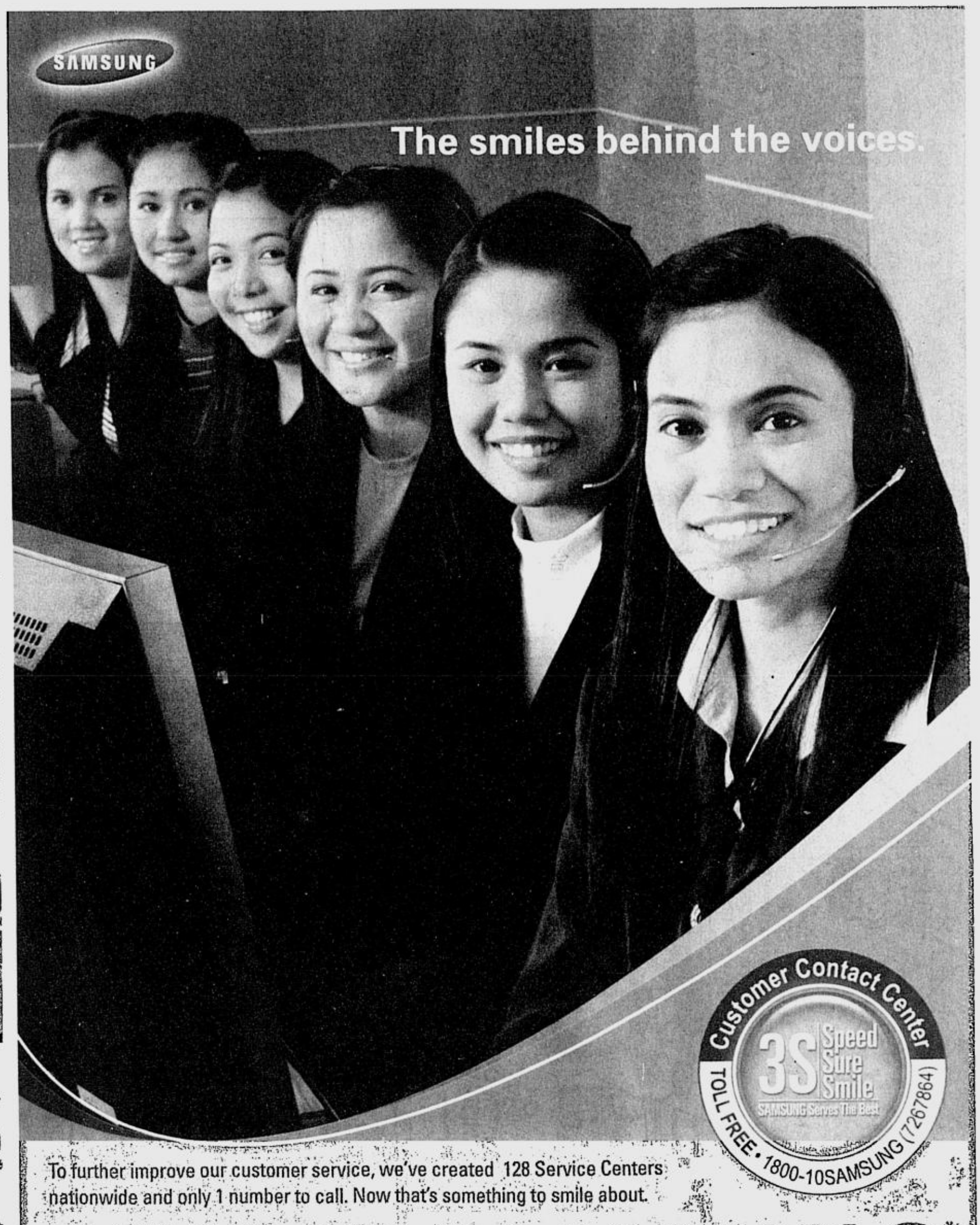
LM Jose Sanchez, Danny Tangangco, Tem Banaria, John Castelo and Susan Resultan



ARANETA Group of Companies President Jorge Araneta with priests during the blessing of Gateway Mall

## *Fred Perry yearend sale*

FRED Perry is now offering a yearend sale of its shoes with big discounts up to 50 percent. The sale shops include those at the Robinson's Department Store, Sta. Lucia Department Store, Riverbanks, Landmark, Market! Market!, and Cinderella outlets.



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DECEMBER 19, 2004

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BY ROBERT WONG

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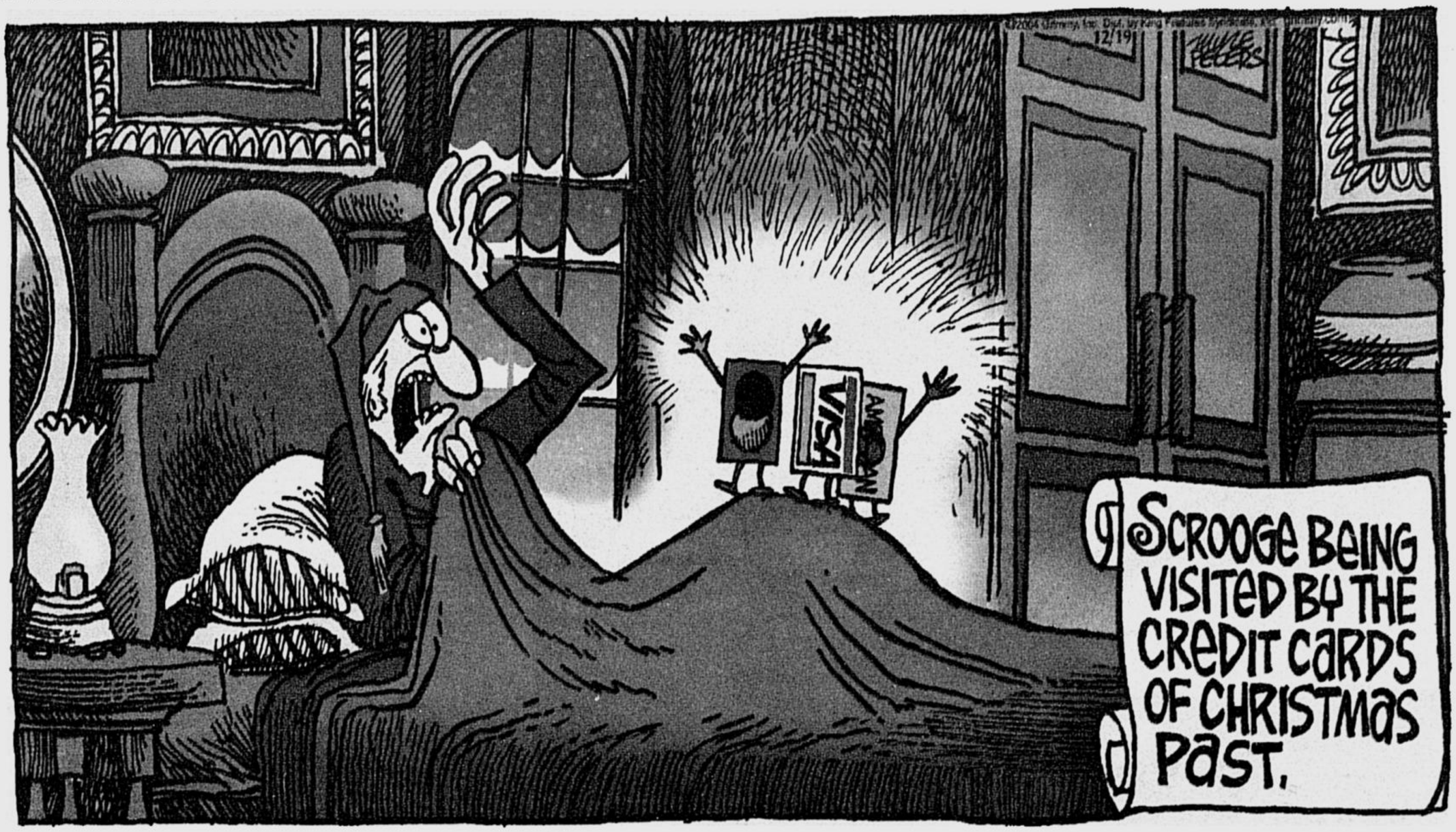
BY POL MEDINA JR.

FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS




## ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

Read the Inquirer Comics Sunday and get a chance to win weekly prizes from Ragnarok, Filbars and Fully Booked or a PC in the Grand Draw! Text INQVOTE to 291 (SMART) and 2949 (Globe) now!*
Congratulations to last week's winners: 1) Merwyn Funtanilla of Cainta Rizal, 2) Melvin Rompal of Tacloban City, 3) Melinda Lubis of Batangas City
To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung
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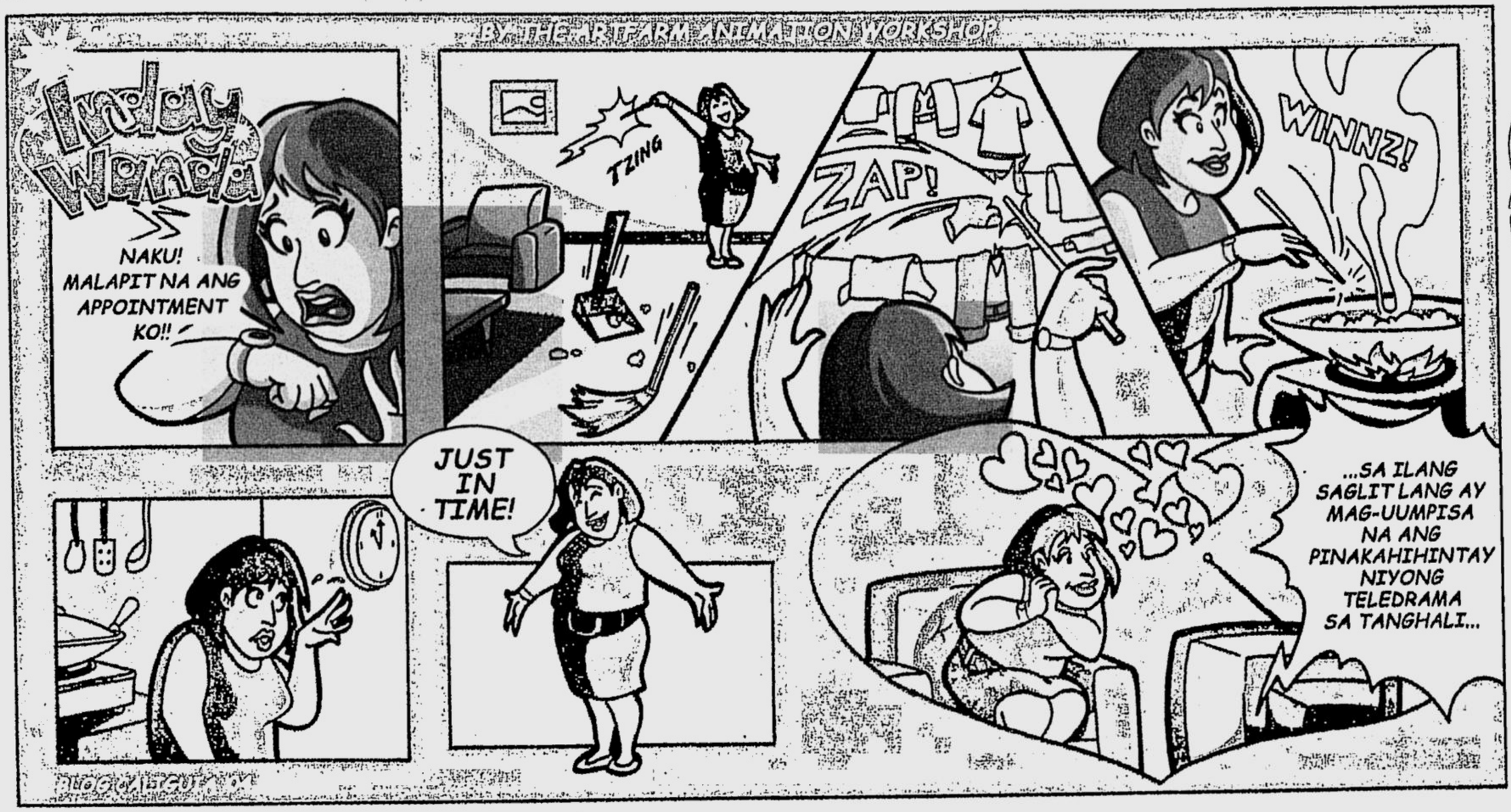



## DARNA

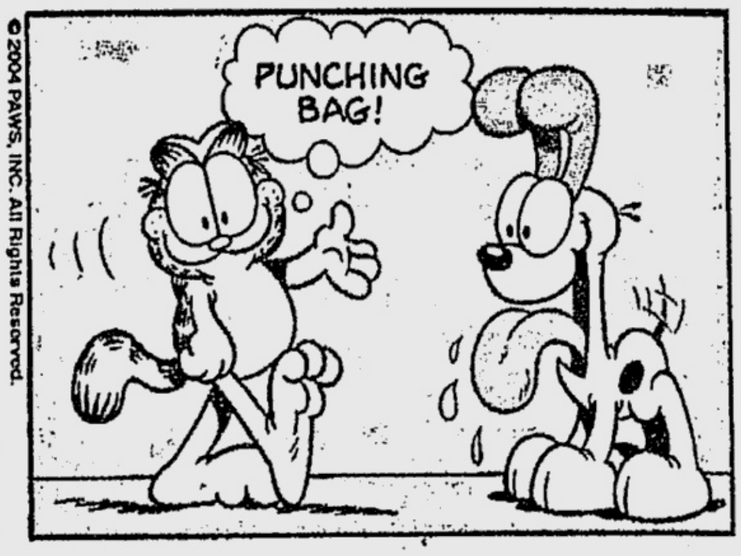
BY MANGO COMICS

FROM THE 3-PART GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY COMICBOOKS BY MANGO COMICS

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

## GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

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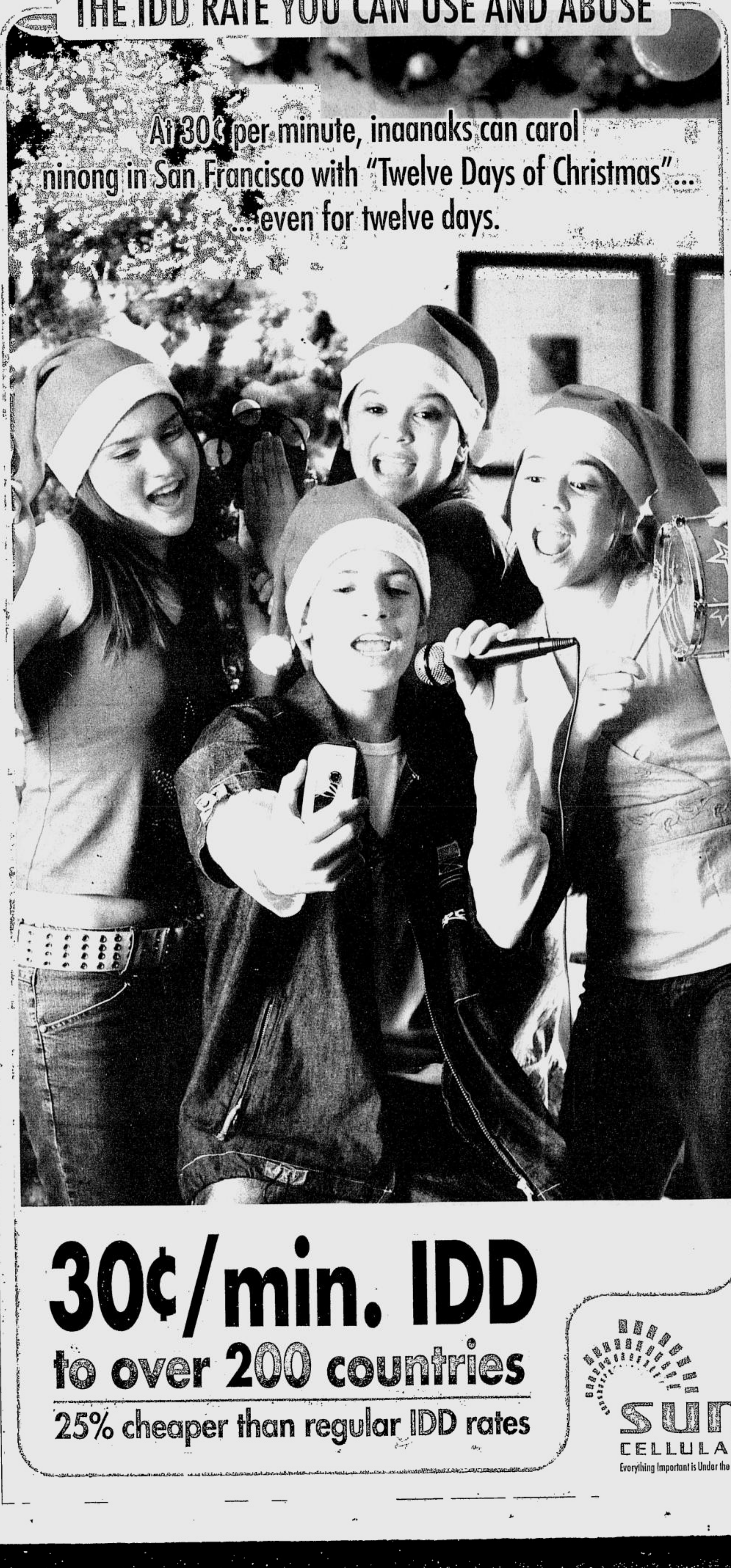
## FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

# THE IDD RATE YOU CAN USE AND ABUSE



## At 30¢ per minute, inaanaks can carol ninong in San Francisco with "Twelve Days of Christmas"... ...even for twelve days.

## Have a merrier Christmas with what you save from your Sun IDD!

Economically, it's been a tough year, but we Filipinos never let hard times stop ourselves from enjoying Christmas. It simply means we need to be more creative and look for better value whenever we can. So, when it comes to IDD rates, it's best to compare. You'll be pleasantly surprised to find that Sun Cellular's IDD rate is only 30¢ per minute to over 200 countries. That's a big 25% savings compared to other networks' IDD rates.

It's the IDD rate you can use and abuse – it allows you to spend real quality talk time with your family and friends abroad. Tell your best friend all the highlights of the Season or even the year past. Let your kids reel off their long Christmas lists to Tita or even allow your Kuya to eavesdrop on the Noche Buena banter. It's really up to you!

Best of all, Sun's 30¢ per minute IDD rate not only means that you can take your time wishing your loved ones a merry Christmas but also have enough money left to spare. Whenever you make an average-length call using Sun Cellular to your relatives and friends abroad, the P22 you save can readily be used to buy extra Christmas cards, ornaments and stocking treats. Or how about giving that money to charity? Your P22 can buy a toy in Divisoria to help bring cheer to an orphan or a notebook needed by an indigent student.

Then, there is always the extra pleasure of using the money left over after making all those IDD calls to buy the most special person in your life an unexpected Christmas present. So go out and get something nice – probably the latest mobile handset powered by Sun Cellular!

So save more with the IDD service you can use and abuse. It's Sun Cellular's way of wishing you a very merry Christmas.

# 30¢/min. IDD
## to over 200 countries
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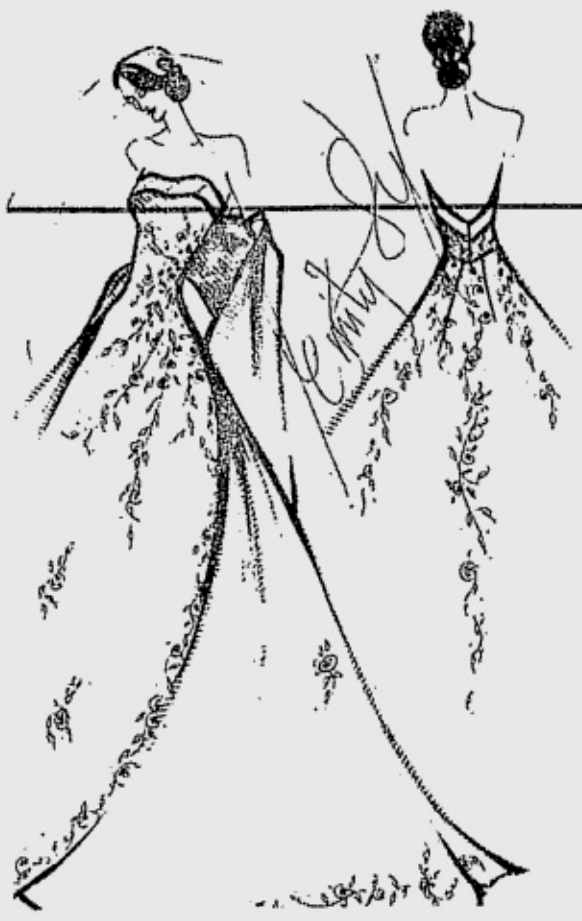
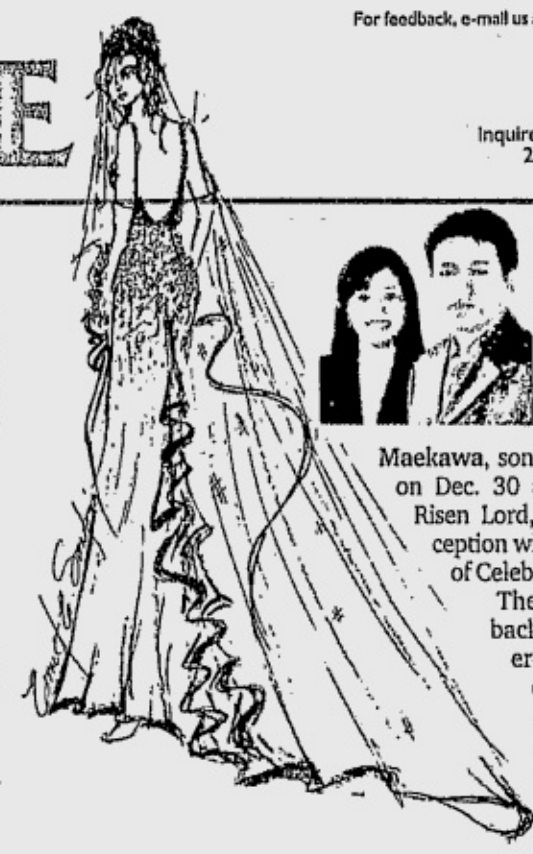


## Milestones

*We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

### NAKPIL- BUGAOISAN

**Carlo Anthony Nakpil**, son of **Ernesto** and **Generosa Nakpil**, tied the knot with Dr. **Rachel Bugaoisan**, daughter of **Restituto** and **Bella Bugaoisan**, on Dec. 11 at Manila Cathedral. Reception followed at Ramon Magsaysay Center. The bride wore a princess-cut off-shoulder gown created by **Emily Sy** of ESY Creations.





### MABALAY-MAEKAWA

**Daisy May Mabalay**, daughter of **Carmelita Mabalay-Takada**, will exchange vows with **Yasuhiro Maekawa**, son of **Sadako Maekawa**, on Dec. 30 at The Church of the Risen Lord, UP Diliman, QC. Reception will follow at the Veranda of Celebrity Club.

The bride will wear a low-back beaded sheath in layered chiffon with gathered train skirt and long veil designed by **Ernest E. Santos**, who is also the overall coordinator.

### ORTEGA-BELTRAN

**Jay Ortega**, son of **Bernabe** and **Zenaida Ortega**, exchanged vows with **Rochell Beltran**, daughter of **Catalino** and **Resurreccion Beltran**, on Dec. 11 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Church, Baliuag, Bulacan. Reception followed at TGI Pavillion in Baliuag.

The bride wore a princess-cut gown with Swarovski crystals. The entourage wore two-tone yellow and peach dyed chiffon gowns, all designed by Emily Sy of ESY Creations Solutions Events. **Anna Rubite** coordinated the wedding. Photo and video by **Edward Unite** of Phases and Faces.

### SIMBULAN 80TH BIRTHDAY

**Natividad Servando Simbulan**, former mayor of Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, will celebrate her 80th birthday today at the Harana Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Manila. She will wear a wine-red traditional *baro* or *kimona* with full sleeves and loose-fitting bodice by **Danilo Franco**. The spray of gold and silver leaves on the shoulder holds the draped *alampay*. A soft flow of the skirt dropping to the floor compliments the whole fluid feeling.

### CENIZAL-MATUGAS

**Jasper James C. Cenizal**, son of **Jimmy Ner Cenizal** and **Ruth Cerna Cenizal**, will marry **Jacqueline G. Matugas**, daughter of **Kose Limosnero Matugas** and **Lucita Gallamoza Matugas**, on Dec. 29 at Las Terrazas Clubhouse, Diversion Road, Davao City. **Nicole "Tata" Soriano** will arrange the floral ornaments, while **Henrix Debil** will serenade the bride and groom.

### LANCETA-DANILES

**Renato O. Lanceta Jr.**, son of Mr. and Ms Renato Lanceta Sr., will marry **Myrrh M. Daniles**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Melquiades Daniles**, on Dec. 28, at the Assumption Parish Church, Davao City.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LUIS and Ditas Alvarez in cowboy gear

PICNIC at the beach. Michel Lhuillier, Anna Marie Dizon, Nita Llamas, Letty Sotelo, Amparito Lhuillier, Michael and Joanna Lhuillier with their son Matthew

# A beautiful introduction to newlyweds

CEBU CEBU

*Jaime Picornell*

MARITERE (née Moraza) and Alberto de Rotaeche gave a beautiful cocktail party followed by dinner at the ballroom of the Cebu Country Club so friends and relations can meet their newly married children.

Emil Rotaeche met his bride, Melissa, in Chicago, and their wedding took place in New Jersey where they will make their home—in Cherry Hill, Audubon.

The party could well have been a belated celebration for both Alberto and Maritere whose birthdays fall in November. They both belong to The Group whose recent birthday celebrators were **Ralph Zuluaga** at the terrace of the Casino Español and **Eddie Dakay** who chose a great menu at the Beehive.

For the birthday of **Nita Cisneros Llamas**, a Sunday picnic was organized by her loving daughters, **Amparito** and **Anna Marie**, accompanied, of course, by their dashing husbands, **Michel Lhuillier** and **Johnny Dizon**, respectively.

Setting was Michel and Amparito's realm-by-the-sea in Danao, an hour's drive north of the city on the eastern coast of Cebu island. The best gift for Nita that day was the presence of her sister **Letty Cisneros Sotelo**. She has lived in California for 56 years and she found Cebu, Manila and their environs quite changed since 1948.

"I like what I see," she said to her table mates at the picnic, including **Angelita Lhuillier**, Michel's mom, a sharp and witty conversationalist. She was regaling her friends on her latest achievement, the presidency of Friends of the Poor (FOP).

## Mahjong as fundraiser

Since the 1950s, the group of women gathers three afternoons a week at the Casino Español to play mahjong. They start at 2 p.m., have a leisurely *merienda*, and are home by 7 p.m. The stakes are low, but the *tong* is steep.

There is good reason for that. Kept in the FOP coffers, the impressive sum collected at the end of the year is distributed among the poor. Beneficiaries include the leprosarium, surgeries for hare-lipped children, and projects for the mentally handicapped and others.

Past president **Cheding Chiongbian** inducted Angelita and the rest of the officers: vice president **Viring Romoff**, secretary **Bernardita Valenzuela**, treasurer **Caring Fernandez** and auditor **Petring Torres**.

In her inaugural speech Angelita, said she was proud that the FOP had grown so much in recent years that it now needed a bigger function room. She asked everybody to stand and take an oath to live (and play) by the code of the organization.

## Wild 80th

The birthday bash of the season was without doubt the Wild West party tossed by **Luis** and **Merceditas Alvarez** to celebrate his turning 80! It was at the family-owned Costa Bella, one of the pioneer resorts on Mactan Island.

NEWLYWEDS Emil and Melissa Rotaeche

Sitoy was in full cowboy gear, and so was Ditas, high boots and all. Surrounding them were all their children: **Merche** and **Gerry Castro**, **Marita** and **Raul Arambulo**, **Mariles** and **Marco Nable**, **Marisse** and **Francis Sy**, **Louie Jr.** and **Hazel Alvarez**.

A horde of grandchildren, close relations and dear friends toasted the celebrator and feasted on the excellent food Costa Bella is famous for.

Next birthday in the family was that of **Zelia Borromeo** who celebrated at La Terraza of Montebello Villa Hotel. How Zelia bleaches hearts of the banana so they look like artichokes is quite a secret. They were the first to disappear on the buffet table.

Zelia invited brothers **Luis**, **Pablo** and **Drigo** from the Verbum Dei congregation. They certainly livened up the evening with their Christmas carols in Spanish and a quick, albeit zany, lesson on how to dance the flamenco.

Hands on the hips, toss your chin, lift the right hand, pretend you are picking an apple from the tree, look at the apple, bite it, dash it to the floor, crush it with your feet. And that's just one figure.

The other two involve fending off mosquitoes and shaking off ants. Hilarious!

## Modern-day bard in Cebu

**Angelo Bard** is 24 but has become an acclaimed violinist not just in his native Germany but all over the world. For his Cebu performance, he had the excellent **Mary Anne Espina** as collaborating pianist. The recital was presented by the Arts Council in partnership with Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Corp., Innove, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Cebu Holdings Inc. and City Sports Club where the show was held.

Haydn's Violin Concerto No. 1 opened the program, followed by Bach's Partita for Solo Violin No. 2.

The audience swooned when Molina's "Cavatina" and the popular Cebu ballad "Matud Nila" by Wenceslao Zubiri were played.

After an intermission came a brilliant rendition of **Maurice Ravel's** Sonata for Violin and Piano. Mary Anne played solo the Danzas Argentinas by Alberto Ginastera. Angelo joined her for the finale, Sarasate's Introduction and Tarantelle.

HSBC's **Debbie Marie Dy** and **Mia Zamora** presented flowers to the artists. Angelo announced an encore, "I Will Always Remember You," dedicated to everyone, of course.

Congratulated for the success of the event was Arts Council president **Petite Garcia**, **Mayen Tan** who was in charge of the presentation, and trustee **Jaime Chua** for the gigantic bromeliads that adorned the stage.

# Jesus loves children–and adults, too

PURELY PERSONAL

*Josephine Darang*

IT seemed like a miracle when the weather improved on Dec. 3 for the First Communion of 315 students of Hermenigildo Atienza Elementary School in Baseco.

Typhoon Yoyong was threatening just the day before.

With the good weather, the presider, Bishop Teodoro Bacani, told the children that Jesus truly loved them. The children themselves declared, "*Mahal kami ni* Jesus."

The eventful First Communion delighted the members of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion, sponsor of the event since 1985.

For one whole year, catechists of the San Agustin Parish headed by Ofelia Granados taught Grade 4-6 students at the Cathedral to prepare them to receive Jesus for the first time. Rory Eizmendi, Cofradia president, wants to start catechism in Grade 1 in the future.

### Jesus loves adults, too

Jesus has manifested His love for me in many ways. In 2000, I rushed to the clinic of Dr. Erwin Carabeo because of high blood pressure and edema. He found that an enlargement of the heart was causing edema, heavy coughing and difficulty in walking.

He gave me five kinds of medicine and prescribed a diet of no meat, no eggs and no coffee. After four months, I lost the edema and some pounds. Dr. Carabeo said I went to him just in time; it could have been fatal.

### Tessie Gonzales' story

I met Tessie Gonzales at the launching of the book "Hospice Stories," edited and collated by Monina Allarey Mercado, at the Filipinas Heritage Library. Tessie was still on remission from radical mastectomy in 1986.

She was given only six months to live. But her faith was strong. She continued to pray for a miracle.

"In 1994, when the Big C [recurred]—this time in my bones—I traveled to France with my loving husband to bathe in the miraculous waters of Lourdes. Yes, there was a miracle... and the deepest personal encounter with the Blessed Mother," she said.

"In 1997, I was found unconscious in our bathroom with a bloated stomach and a blood pressure of 200/120. I woke up at the Manila Doctor's Hospital with a bleeding ulcer and was in critical care for 10 days... I stormed the heavens for yet another miracle and, with God's providence, I made the trip [to attend our daughter's graduation in New Jersey] on a wheelchair and came back... without it."

Today, she is a volunteer at the hospice in Los Baños, Laguna.

### The sick and dying

The Madre de Amor Hospice Foundation has 33 volunteers. They assure the terminally ill or those with incurable illnesses that Jesus loves them.

HOSPICE president Monina Mercado and Dr. Rhodora Ocampo

Monina Mercado, board president, says they see to it that the dying receive the Last Sacraments. Dr. Rhodora Ocampo takes care of the hospice with the help of nurse Evangeline Labitoria.

The hospice began in 1994 on the initiative of Carol Gonzales vda. de Guerrero (who is now chair) with the help of friends Ning Basa, Marcia Sandoval and the late Tony Mercado.

The hospice brings healing when cure is no longer possible. Call 049-5360644. To buy the book, text 0917-8138731.

### Parish needs help

Fr. Romeo Murillo, parish priest of the Holy Name of Jesus in Capoocan, Leyte, needs help for the renovation of the church. Call him at 053-3316064 or write to him at Pio C. Melgar St., Capoocan, Leyte 6530. Thank you for your kindness.

### Fiesta

Lorna Gonzales and the volunteers for the fiesta of the Sto. Niño de Providencia are already preparing for the event on Jan. 27. The devotion turns 13 on that date. It was in 1992 that the miraculous image began to spill oil from His body in the living room of the late Corazon Gonzales, Lorna's mother.

Lorna is short of funds to feed at least 10,000 people who come all the way from the provinces. As early as 7 a.m. on that day, people already gather on Pijuan Street in BF Resort Village for the prayers and anointing of the sick by a priest.

The Concelebrated Mass is held at 3 p.m. at the parish church. Those who wish to help can text 0918-9181077.

St. Expeditus statues are ideal as gifts. Call 7253257.

### Preparing for Christmas

Fr. Alex Ramos of Ermita Church told the people at his 5 p.m. Mass last Sunday that, to receive Jesus on Christmas Day, they have to reform (give up the sinful life), repent (go to Confession and sin no more), rejoice because Christ is coming and, finally, receive Him as their Savior.

As Christmas Day nears, we should constantly pray "Maranatha—Come Lord Jesus" and reform our lives. Then, it will be truly a happy Christmas.

It is a happy Christmas for me. My column turned 17 years old yesterday. Thanks to you, readers, this column has helped churches, poor seminarians and poor students.

Most of all, devotions to all the saints, especially Mama Mary have spread. God bless you all with good health. Merry Christmas!

# Idol has feet of clay

EMILY'S POST

*Emily A. Marcelo*

DEAR EMILY,

I got pregnant by a guy I hardly knew, but read so much about in newspaper columns. We met during the birthday party of a friend's friend, which I was not even supposed to attend. But it was a weekend and I needed to get away from the pressure of work.

After we were introduced we didn't talk to anybody anymore. We were very attracted to each other. He was good-looking and very talkative. And we drank too much! After the party, I vaguely remember agreeing to go to his place and the rest is history.

When I called two months later to tell him I was pregnant, he laughed and said I must be crazy. We're both 35 and his nonchalance and heartlessness took me terribly by surprise. I never felt so cheap in my life.

I don't know what I was thinking when I went with this guy. I am not a loose woman. I've only had one relationship in my entire life and that lasted for eight long years.

My problem now is there's someone who really, really loves me. He has been courting me these last two years. I was taking my time because I didn't want to be hurt again.

It's ironic that this "incident" happened when I was already falling for him. When I posed a "hypothetical" pregnancy to him, he said that would never be a problem. He said he would still love me and marry me.

My pregnancy is still not obvious, but I decided early on not to have an abortion. I am so afraid and confused!

STUPID WANNABE PARTY GIRL

You obviously got yourself a creep and a jerk in that party! He turned out to be just a pretty boy who looked good from a distance but one should never come in contact with.

You are lucky to be living at this time when single women can get pregnant without raising anyone's eyebrow or blood pressure.

But enough of the blame game. Marry this suitor who loves you only if you love him, too. No need to make him a scapegoat. It will be good for your baby to grow up with a "father" who will welcome it because he loves the mother without question. Though half of your baby's genes come from that creep, it will turn out all right because there will be love around when it is born.

You may call yourself a stupid wannabe, but you certainly are in luck and a million times blessed to have someone love you dearly and without question. Men like that are the needle we've been dying to find in a haystack.

### Her marriage is a sham

I'VE been married 25 years and I have three kids. My husband owns his company. We live comfortably and, to our employees and friends, we are a very lucky couple.

They think he is the epitome of a devoted husband, and I, the ideal wife. Unknown to many of them, my husband has two other families. He got his first *querida* eight years into our marriage. The second *querida* came five years after that.

I've tried to accept his philandering all these years just to keep my own family intact. My eldest daughter knows but not the younger kids. I am not even 50 and already I feel like a dried prune.

My husband and I haven't had sex for almost a decade. A year ago, I, too, had my own share of "fun," as friends of mine call their affairs. He was a car salesman, younger than me and single. It was serendipity.

I am happy, I am in love and I don't feel guilty. Nobody knows about it—nobody—not my best friend. I do not even boast about it to my swinging friends.

We have dinners during the week and we're together on weekends while my husband plays "golf."

Why don't I feel guilty at all? The only concession to guilt is I haven't received communion all this time. I think God will punish me and I will go straight to hell when I die.

CHANGED WIFE

I am really the wrong person to ask about hell. But that doesn't mean I will not enjoy giving an opinion.

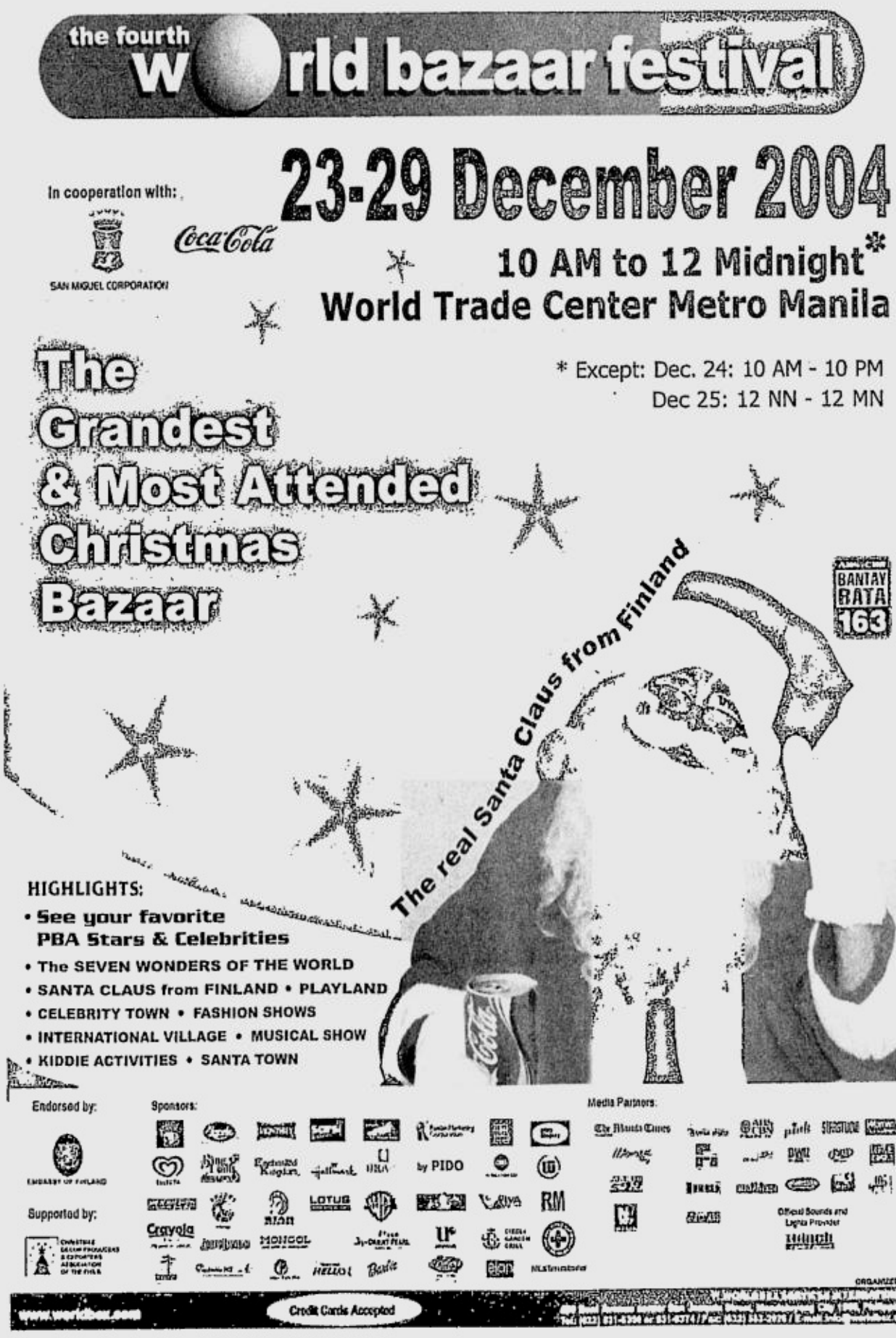
FYI, you cannot feign guilt—just as you cannot feign pregnancy. It's either you are or you aren't. Guilt is that little voice in your head that tells you something's not right. Guilt throws you in a tailspin or blows up a simple word into a myriad meanings in your mind. You may hide it from others but never from yourself. It sticks to you like suntan lotion and hounds you even in your sleep.

After long years of being a "martyr" to your husband's infidelities, your spirit's survival mechanism kicked in and opened a window that made you come up for air and live again. You discovered love!

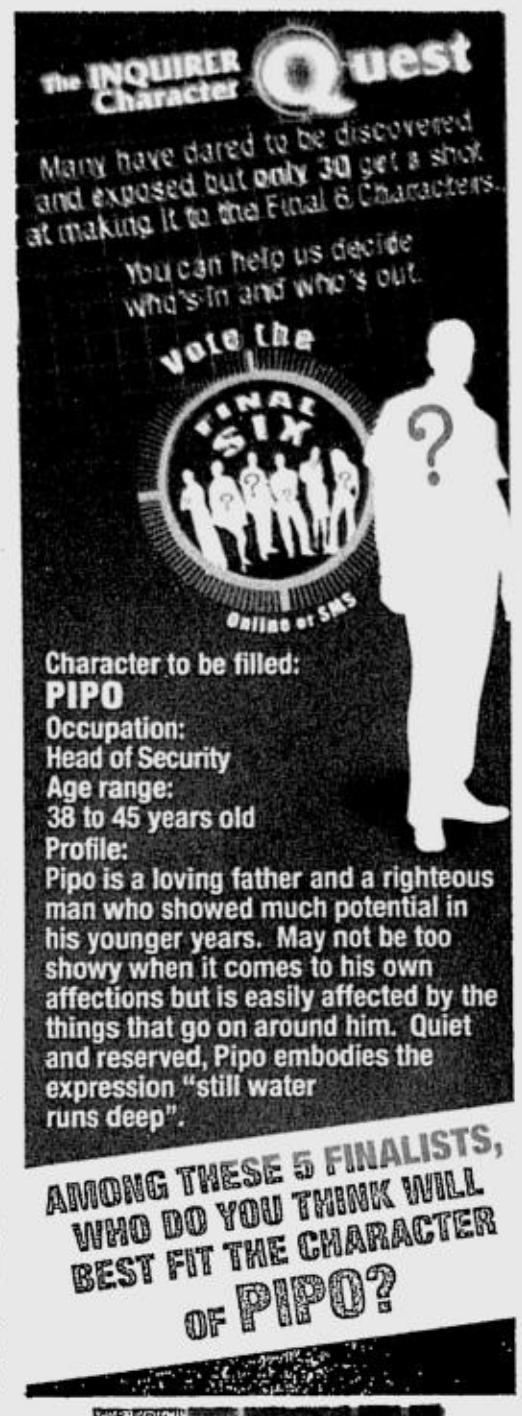
What counts is that you really found love the old-fashioned way—by really falling in love—and have not taken the "what's good for the goose is good for the gander" route.

Anything done sincerely, honestly, truthfully and not for spite or vindictiveness will be absolved by that all-knowing Force in the universe. You shouldn't talk about God as if He has a pea brain. Only the know-it-all, holier-than-thou, goody-two-shoes, pea-brained human beings have the audacity to threaten damnation. Whatever you do is between you and your creator. Amen.

*E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle; or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, dwBR 104.3 FM.*



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FAVORITE MOVIES

# 'Sideways,' 2 by Yimou, 1 by Eastwood, 'Amelie' in the t[illegible]es

TOPS IN 2004 (clockwise from above) Zhang Yimou's "House of Flying Daggers," Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby" and Alexander Payne's "Sideways" with the director (standing)

ASSOCIATED Press' David Germain and Christy Lemire pick their favorite films of 2004:

The top 10, according to movie writer Germain:

1) **"The Saddest Music in the World."** Filmmaker Guy Maddin spins a blissfully twisted tale of a legless Depression-era beer baroness (Isabella Rossellini) who stages a contest to find the world's gloomiest tunes, and a can-do American (Mark McKinney) determined to win the prize for the Yanks. The distorted black-and-white images and demented music perfectly complement Maddin's absurdist tone.

2) **"A Very Long Engagement."** "Amelie" in the trenches. Audrey Tautou and director Jean-Pierre Jeunet reunite for this charmer that combines the whimsy and dash-along pace of their romance, "Amelie," with heavy drama and biting commentary on the folly of war. Tautou is bewitching as a woman driven by indefatigable faith that her lover survived the battlefields of World War I, all evidence to the contrary.

3) **"Million Dollar Baby."** Hilary Swank deserves a second Academy Award as an explosively dauntless boxer who knows in her bones when to pounce—and when to quit after life throws her the cruelest of left hooks. Director and star Clint Eastwood follows "Mystic River" with another terrific morality play. He, costar Morgan Freeman and Swank merit serious Oscar consideration.

4) **"Sideways."** Speaking of Oscar, Paul Giamatti is a modern Ernest Borgnine, a character player who has broken into romantic leads. If Borgnine can win an Oscar for "Marty," why not Giamatti as an endearing loser with a fresh chance at love in Alexander Payne's sparkling road-trip comedy? Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen and Sandra Oh zestfully complete Payne's near-perfect quartet.

5) **"House of Flying Daggers."** What a year for director Zhang Yimou (see No. 6). His martial-arts epic is the year's most gorgeous film, awash in color and masterful imagery, packed with dazzlingly choreographed dance and fight sequences. Zhang Ziyi combines ferocious spirit and a tenderly tragic heart as a rebel caught in a love triangle with two allies (Takeshi Kaneshiro and Andy Lau) turned rivals.

6) **"Hero."** The belated 2004 US release of Zhang Yimou's first martial-arts saga served as a glorious appetizer for "House of Flying Daggers." The 2002 adventure stars Jet Li, Tony Leung, Maggie Cheung, Zhang Ziyi and Donnie Yen in a craftily constructed assassination tale that unspools in a cascade of shifting flashbacks, each presented with its own radiant color scheme.

'SIDEWAYS'/4

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AMONG THESE 5 FINALISTS, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BEST FIT THE CHARACTER OF BARTON?

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**BAD SANTA**
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**HAROLD AND KUMAR**
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

Two likeable underdogs (John Cho & Kal Penn) for whom things never seem to go right, set out on a Friday night quest to satisfy their craving for White Castle hamburgers and end up on an epic journey of deep thoughts and deeper inhaling.

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**HONEY**
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

This is the story of Honey (Alba), a tough sexy dancer from the inner city, who becomes a successful music video choreographer, a career which is threatened when her mentor makes her either sleep with him... or get blacklisted within the industry. She ultimately decides to pursue her lifelong dream of opening her own dance studio for inner-city youths.

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9 PASIYAM
10 NED KELLY
11 AFTER THE SUNSET
12 SHREK AND SHARKTALE (RE-ISSUE)

**sm city manila**
1 HONEY
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR
3 POLAR EXPRESS
4 ALEXANDER
5 BAD SANTA
6 NATIONAL TREASURE
7 BUNNYGUARDS
8 ONE MISSED CALL
9 PASIYAM
10 SHREK AND SHARKTALE (RE ISSUE)
11 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
12 BCUZ OF U

**sm city sta. mesa**
1 PAIYAM
2 BIRTH
3 ALEXANDER
4 HAROLD AND KUMAR
5 NATIONAL TREASURE
6 ONE MISSED CALL
7 BAD SANTA
8 NED KELLY
9 HONEY
10 BCUZ OF U

**sm city southmall**
1 BAD SANTA
2 HONEY
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 HAROLD AND KUMAR
5 BIRTH
6 NED KELLY
7 PASIYAM
8 ALEXANDER
9 BCUZ OF U...
10 ONE MISSED CALL

**sm city north edsa**
1 ALEXANDER
2 SHREK AND SHARKTALE (RE-ISSUE)
3 PASIYAM
4 BIRTH
5 GEORGE OF THE DRAGON
6 HAROLD AND KUMAR
7 NATIONAL TREASURE
8 HONEY

**sm city bicutan**
1 GEORGE OF THE DRAGON
2 BRIDGET JONES 2
3 BAD SANTA
4 NATIONAL TREASURE

**sm cinema tutuban**
1 HONEY
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR
3 PASIYAM
4 SHREK AND SHARKTALE (RE-ISSUE)

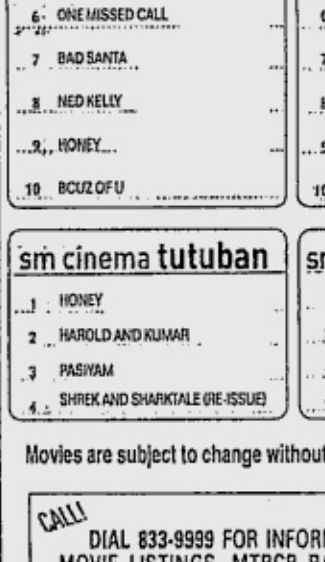
**sm supercenter sucat**
1 BAD SANTA
2 GEORGE OF THE DRAGON
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 BRIDGET JONES 2

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL! DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF! VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE




## THE BUNNYGUARDS

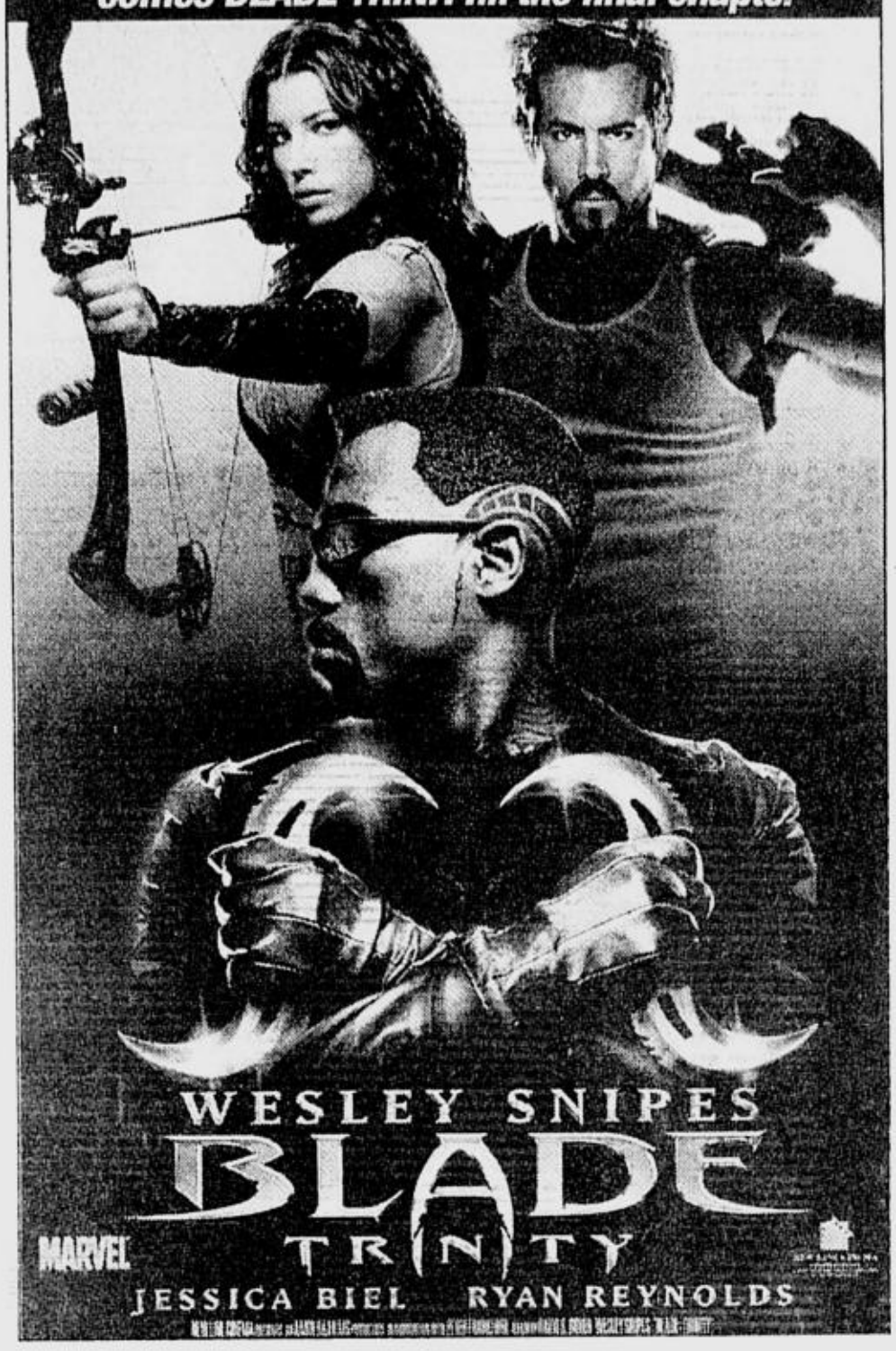
## NOW SHOWING
### SM CITY MANILA
### SM MEGAMALL

MTRCB Rating: G

SM Cinema unleashes Washington's scandal of the century. Through his connections to the underworld and for a huge amount of money, a Hamburg publisher succeeds in getting his hands on a tape with a recording of a secret and intimate conversation between the President and his intern. However, just prior to the big press conference, the revealing tape is accidentally exchanged with his daughter Nina's Japanese lessons tape who, unknowingly, flies with the evidence in her handbag to Munich. As soon as her father realizes what has happened, he tries to get the best bodyguards money can buy to protect her. However, thanks to the efforts of the German Secret Service and the CIA, both of which are eager to get their hands on the tape, Nina ends up with the two biggest goofs in town, Erkan and Stefan.

*Catch The Bunnyguards only here at SM Cinemas! Watch how Erkan and Stefan get to be heroes for a day! See fantastic, unforgettable movies, extras are coming about only here at SM Cinemas!*

OPENS JANUARY 6
THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SUPERHERO IS BACK!
From MARVEL, the creators of SPIDERMAN comes BLADE TRINITY... the final chapter




# MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
# MOVIE GUIDE
## NOW SHOWING

**SHANG CINEPLEX**
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES GP

1 (DOLBY) NATIONAL TREASURE GP
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES PG13
3 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS GP
SHREK 2 GP
4 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER R13

**SUPER CINERAMA**
Isetann CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) BAD SANTA
2. HONEY
3. RESERVED
4. GEORGE & THE DRAGON
5. SALAT

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KALABIT
2 THE GRUDGE

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) U-BELT
2 KALABIT
3 BABY GENIUSES
4 (DTS) ALEXANDER

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ONE MISSED CALL
2 (SDDS) CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 (DTS) HONEY
4 (DOLBY DTS) BAD SANTA
5 (DOLBY) HAROLD & KUMAR
6 (SDDS) NATIONAL TREASURE
7 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
8 (DTS) BCUZ OF U
9 (DTS) SEED OF CHUCKY
10 (DTS) THE INCREDIBLE

**Masagana CINEMA**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HONEY
2 NED KELLY
3 KALABIT

**MARKETMART**
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ALEXANDER
2 BABY GENIUSES
3 KALABIT
4 RESERVED

**st rmall Movies**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) POLAR EXPRESS
2 SANTA SANTITA

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE POLAR EXPRESS
2 (DOLBY) BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
3 (DOLBY) THE INCREDIBLES
4 (DOLBY) SHREK 2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Ayala Center
**GREENBELT CINEPLEX**
Tel 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS) HAROLD & KUMAR
5 (DTS) BAD SANTA
6 (Dolby) HONEY
7 (Dolby) BCUZ OF U

**st rmall Movies**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SANTA SANTITA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) NED KELLY
5 SALAT SA LIGAYA

**METROPOLIS star**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 OUT OF REACH
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA
3 HONEY
4 SANTA SANTITA
5 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
6 NATIONAL TREASURE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

# 2 named to GMA Int'l

GMA Network Inc. announced the designation of two network officials to lead GMA International in line with preparations for its international venture.

Joseph Jerome Francia was appointed head of Operations and concurrent OIC of GMA International, while Juliet de los Reyes was named head of Sales and Marketing of GMA International.

Both appointments took effect Dec. 15.

Francia has been a consultant for GMA Network since March 2003, when GMA engaged Beanstalk Media, a management consulting company which he co-founded, for the GMA International project. He was a junior executive for a broadcasting corporation and a project manager for new markets of a global business-to-business e-commerce player where he supervised start-up operations with partner companies in North America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

De los Reyes was previously the head of New Business Development. She has been with GMA for two and a half years. As Sales and Marketing head of GMA International, she will spearhead research to gain more understanding of overseas Filipinos, particularly in the US.

She said negotiations and preparations are under way for GMA Network to launch its international channel in the US by January 2005.

# Festival awards lantern tilt winners

FESTIVAL Supermall, Muntinlupa City's premier entertainment and shopping place, awards the winners of the Inter-school Christmas Lantern Competition on Tuesday, Dec. 21, on the fourth level of the Expo Trade and Music Hall at 1 p.m.

The awarding is part of the Supermall's celebration of 12 Weeks of Christmas. The contest is a joint project of Festival Supermall and Earth-savers and is also a project of Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon and Vice Mayor Aldrin San Pedro. Special awarding guest is Sen. Pia Cayetano.

All entries are made of recycled paper and similar materials. Prizes are P10,000 for first place, P7,000 for second place and P5,000 for third place.

Festival Supermall's 12 Weeks of Christmas continues with concerts and contests.

Festival Supermall is the shopping, dining and entertainment complex of the south, with more than 600 stores, restaurants, specialty and service shops.

Call 850-3514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com. Mall hours are from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

CENTER for Pop Music Philippines launches its promising singing talents in a concert tomorrow, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan. Titled "After 6," the concert features (left to right): Ria Rius, Pia Tapia, Frank Peredo, Adele Yuboco, Dice Martinez Jr., Hannah Nolledo and Lady Macaspac. The show is directed and hosted by Butch Albarracin.

# Quezon City music school enrollment on

THE PHILIPPINE Music Training School (PMTS) offers lessons in voice development, voice dynamic and stage performance. Enrollment is from Dec. 20 to Jan. 1.

The school is at 117-A S. Macaya St., Barangay Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Call Analyn Estinofo, 4540078.

The school offers 30 sessions and a 35-percent discount on tuition, as well as a high standard of teaching, high-tech sound system, fully air-conditioned room.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

### MANILA

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LAMIGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

### QUEZON CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | SALAT SA LIGAYA |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUDONG BUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

### NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

| | |
|---|---|
| A | SALAT SA LIGAYA |
| B | CLOSED |
| C | |

### MANDALUYONG CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA 1 2 3 4 | NATIONAL TREASURE / BRIDGET JONES / SPIDERMAN 2 / SHREK 2 |
| PREMIERE THEATRE | THE INCREDIBLES |

### CAINTA RIZAL

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | KALABIT |
| CINEMA-2 | SALAT |
| CINEMA-3 | ONE MISSED CALL |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | POLAR EXPRESS |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-6 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-7 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-8 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | HAROLD & KUMAR |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | ALEXANDER |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | BAD SANTA |
| CINEMA-12 | NATIONAL TREASURE |
| CINEMA-14 | HONEY |
| CINEMA-15 | B CUZ OF U |

### LORES

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

### NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PINAS) | NATIONAL TREASURE |
| CINEMA-1 | PASIYAM |
| CINEMA-2 | BRIDGET JONES |
| CINEMA-4 | POLAR EXPRESS |

### UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |


## POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| POLAR EXPRESS GP 1:30,3:30,5:30 ALEXANDER R13 7:15,10:10 | NATIONAL TREASURE GP 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10 | BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00 |
| HAROLD AND KUMAR R13 1:20,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00 | SHARK TALE GP 12:30,5:00,9:30 INCREDIBLES GP 2:30,7:00 | BAD SANTA R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05 |

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 MON - FRI

## st group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

| st mall EDSA-SHAW Tel. No. 726.61.50 | METROPOLIS ALABANG st Tel. No. 850.42.85 | st mall LAS PIÑAS Tel. No. 873.50.04 |
|---|---|---|
| 3 Santa Santita | 1 Out of Reach | 1 Polar Express |
| 4 Ned Kelly | 2 Salat sa Ligaya | 2 Santa Santita |
| 5 Salat sa Ligaya | 3 Honey | |
| | 4 Santa Santita | |
| | 5 Alexander | |
| | 6 National Treasure | |

Everyday Family Day @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Tom's World Tickets for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

## EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call: 687-6963

GUARANTEED SEATS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE POLAR EXPRESS 12:35, 3:05, 5:35 8:05, 10:35 GP

2 BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2 10:30, 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50 PG-13

3 THE INCREDIBLES 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:30 GP

4 HAROLD & KUMAR 11:50, 2:30, 5:10 7:50, 10:30 R-13

## THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 BAD SANTA 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10 P13

CINEMA 2 HAROLD & KUMAR 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 8:55 R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

## MUSIC MUSEUM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

## SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NATIONAL TREASURE FS 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, LMF 10:00PM (GP)

2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON) FS 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, LMF 9:45PM (PG-13)

3 POLAR EXPRESS FS 11:30AM, 4:30PM, LMF 9:30PM (GP)

SHREK 2 FS 2:00PM, LMF 7:00PM (GP)

4 ALEXANDER FS 12:15PM, 3:30PM, 6:45PM, LMF 10:00PM (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE THE INCREDIBLES (GP) FS 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, LMF 9:30PM

Regular Ticket Prices
Cinema 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)

Shangri-La Plaza

Enjoy our Screen Specials

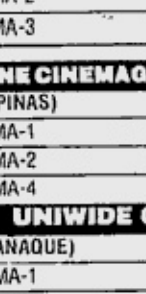
Pay 20% less on Matinee Shows except on selected blockbuster movies

From Monday to Friday : Matinee Shows before 4 p.m.

For more details, please see film listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171.

Promo Period December 1-24, 2004 Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A3-841, Series of 2004

## Opportunity knocks but once.



JOR Market

Food is every Sunday with the Hidyano Body Inquest

## Ayala Center LEISURE GUIDE

NOW OPEN!

Greenbelt CINEPLEX*10

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | HAROLD & KUMAR | 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 |
| 2 | NATIONAL TREASURE | 12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40 |
| 3 | BAD SANTA | 12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00 |
| 4 | BRIDGET JONES | 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00 |

Opens soon!

CINEMAS 5,6,7,8,9 & 10

EXPERIENCE MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER

Greenbelt CINEPLEX*10

LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL

### ALI MALL CINEMAS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | ALEXANDER | 12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30 |
| 4 | HAROLD & KUMAR | 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 |
| 5 | BAD SANTA | 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:20 |
| 6 | HONEY | 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 8:55 |
| 7 | BCUZ OF U | 12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40 |

### CARANDANG COLISEUM

| | |
|---|---|
| Dec. 25 | DISNEY ON ICE 1pm/4:30pm/8pm |
| Dec. 26 | DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm |
| Dec. 27 | DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm |
| Dec. 28 | DISNEY ON ICE 6pm |
| Dec. 29 | DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm |
| Dec. 30 | DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm |

## ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

## • METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

### GALLERIA 632-9115/16

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:30 3:00 6:30 10:00 | 6 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00 |
| 2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00 | 7 SHREK 2 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 |
| 3 NED KELLY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00 | 8 HONEY 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00 |
| 4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:00 | 9 BAD SANTA 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00 |
| 5 BIRTH 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00 | 10 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00 |

### TERMITA 535-7809 to 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00 | |
| 2 BAD SANTA 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 6:30 10:00 | 5 RESERVE |
| 3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30 10:00 | 6 HONEY 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 |
| 4 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50 | 7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 9:50 |

### METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00 | 5 HONEY 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10 |
| 2 ALEXANDER 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30 | 6 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05 |
| 3 SHREK 2 11:50 1:45 BRIDGET JONES 2 3:55 6:25 9:00 | 7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10 |
| 4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:50 12:50 2:50 2046 4:50 7:05 9:20 | 8 BAD SANTA 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10 |

### NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15 | 5 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:10 ONE MISSED CALL 3:30 5:50 8:20 |
| 2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30 | 6 SHREK 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 6:50 8:30 |
| 3 BIRTH 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55 | 7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55 |
| 4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:30 12:30 2:30 2046 4:35 6:50 9:00 | 8 NANG NAK 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55 |

rewind

SHREK is BACK!!!

Join Shrek, Princess Fiona and their friends on their magical journey to Far Far Away...again!

at

Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

galleria•metro east•novaliches•cainta•imus

### PIONEER 687-5378

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 ALEXANDER 11:00 2:20 5:40 9:00 | 3 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:40 3:20 6:00 8:40 |
| 2 SHREK 2 11:10 1:05 3:00 4:55 6:50 8:45 | 4 BAD SANTA 10:35 12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00 |

### Citisquare MALABON 288-0985 / 2575

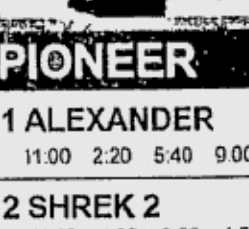
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30 | 3 ALEXANDER 11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30 |
| 2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:15 3:40 6:05 8:30 | 4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:45 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30 |

### CAINTA 240-4661

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 ALEXANDER 10:05 1:15 4:30 8:00 | 3 HONEY 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20 |
| 2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20 | 4 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:15 2:10 5:05 8:00 |

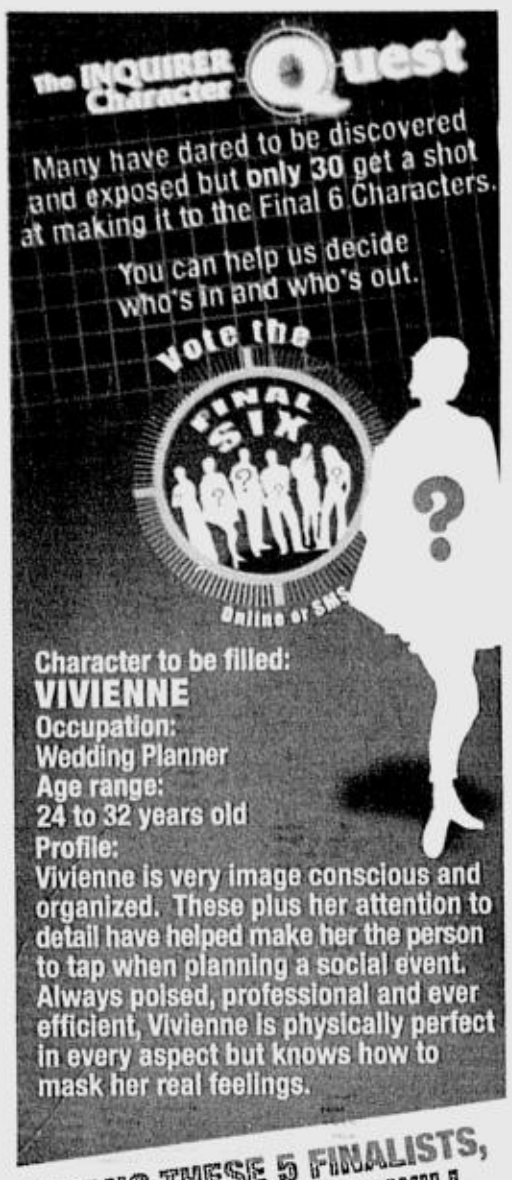
BRIDGET JONES

NOW ON ITS 3RD WEEK!



in Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

galleria • metro east • lipa and bacolod







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

# ENTERTAINMENT Metro

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

## *Brando's back as Corleone—in video game*

LOS ANGELES—The late Hollywood legend Marlon Brando will reprise his Oscar-winning role as Don Vito Corleone in "The Godfather"—in a new video game that will be released more than a year after his death.

The Hollywood Reporter entertainment industry publication said Brando's likeness would take the lead role in a digital game based on the exploits of the legendary mafia family.

**SHOW STOPPER**

The new video game is to be released in the last quarter of 2005.

The game developed by Electronic Arts (EA) will be based on both the 1972 movie directed by Francis Ford Coppola in which Brando starred, and the original novel written by Mario Puzo, the Reporter said.

BRANDO

The video game company acquired the rights to use Brando's image before his death of lung failure on July 1 and is working with Paramount Pictures on developing the product.

While few details about the game have been released, "The Godfather" will allow adult players to take on roles alongside Brando as members of the Corleone crime family.

As video games become increasingly sophisticated, companies including EA have bought licenses to major motion pictures in order to turn them into digital entertainment.

EA struck a similar deal with Warner Bros. for games based on the "Harry Potter" movies.

And "The Godfather" marks the second major crime drama to find its way into the hands of game creators.

Vivendi Universal Games is developing a game based on Brian de Palma's 1983 movie, "Scarface," which starred Al Pacino.

With Pacino's "Scarface" character due to launch in North America at the same time as Brando's "The Godfather," drug lord Tony Montana (of "Scarface") will potentially be pitted against Don Corleone in a market share turf war. *AFP*

## 'Sideways,' 2 by Yimou, 1 by Eastwood . . .

From page 1

7) **"The Motorcycle Diaries."** The seeds of the humanist revolutionary are planted in Walter Salles' ("Central Station") wry, raucous tale of a road trip through South America by young Ernesto Guevara and a mischievous buddy. The future "El Che" is passionately played by Gael Garcia Bernal, while Rodrigo de la Serna makes for the sort of comically intrepid sidekick we all should be blessed with as traveling companion.

8) **"The Village."** Listen up, all you backbiters who say M. Night Shyamalan has run out of tricks. This commentary on modern times was not about scares or surprises. Cloaked in puritan garb, the film offers a great morality debate about our contemporary culture of fear and one community's radical solution to escape a hostile world. Bryce Dallas Howard is superb as a blind girl battling her darkest terrors for love.

9) **"Super Size Me."** Morgan Spurlock chows down in the name of the greater good health. His documentary chronicling his month-long all-McDonald's diet is uproariously funny and more than a little frightening as his body and spirit deteriorate. By going to extremes, Spurlock becomes a pudgy, slothful poster boy for a nation of overeaters.

10) "Spanglish." Writer-director James L. Brooks presents a sharp, full-blooded story centering on a contest of wills between the fiercest of adversaries —two moms with vastly discordant world views. The comic drama about a Mexican housekeeper at odds with her American employers features tremendous performances from Tea Leoni, Paz Vega and Cloris Leachman—and a surprisingly subtle turn from Adam Sandler.

The top 10, according to AP movie critic Christy Lemire:

JEAN-PIERRE Jeunet's "A Very Long Engagement"

1) **"Sideways."** Nothing near-perfect about it. This is by far the year's best film. And it's the second year in a row that Paul Giamatti stars in the top film (following "American Splendor"), proving that beneath his character-actor looks lie the talent and versatility of a leading man. Disarmingly written and beautifully cast, with equal amounts of humor and heart, Alexander Payne's middle-aged, coming-of-age film resonates long after the lights go up.

2.) **"Team America: World Police."** It works on every level: as sidesplitting comedy, sharp political satire, observant parody of bombastic action flicks, even as a musical, with meticulously detailed sets and costumes. And did we mention that the stars are puppets? The "South Park" guys are at it again, and just when you thought they had sufficiently shocked you, they've come up with a sex scene involving marionette superheroes that will make you laugh so hard, you'll cry. Easily the year's funniest movie.

3) **"A Very Long Engagement."** A gorgeous film all around. Jean-Pierre Jeunet directs his "Amelie" star, Audrey Tautou, in a movie that seamlessly combines history, dark humor and heart-tugging true love. The World War I battle scenes are huge and viscerally evocative, yet even the smallest roles have been cast with obvious care. And Tautou is simply radiant, as always. It's epic and intimate at the same time—a hard balance to strike.

4) **"Garden State."** A surprisingly assured debut from Zach Braff of the sitcom "Scrubs," who directs, writes and stars as a disconnected, semi-successful TV actor who returns home to New Jersey for his mother's funeral. He runs into old friends (Peter Sarsgaard, always excellent), makes new ones (an effervescent Natalie Portman) and finds out who he really is. A film of warmth and wit, subtlety and sweetness.

5) **"Metallica: Some Kind of Monster."** You don't have to be a fan of the metal band to enjoy this documentary (though there are plenty of recording sessions to watch if you are). Through the group's brutally honest therapy sessions, filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky tell a story of loyalty, communication, redemption and the challenges that come with continuing a career in your 40s. The film is non-judgmental and often insightful.

6) **"The Motorcycle Diaries."** The rare biopic that avoids the trap of becoming a greatest-hits collection of a famous person's life. Walter Salles focuses on the road trip Ernesto Guevara took with his best friend before becoming the revolutionary icon "El Che." The film morphs mesmerizingly from wacky buddy flick into a tale of politics and personal awakening, much of it shot with the hand-held, gritty immediacy of a documentary. Gael Garcia Bernal and Rodrigo de la Serna have the chemistry of guys who've been friends forever.

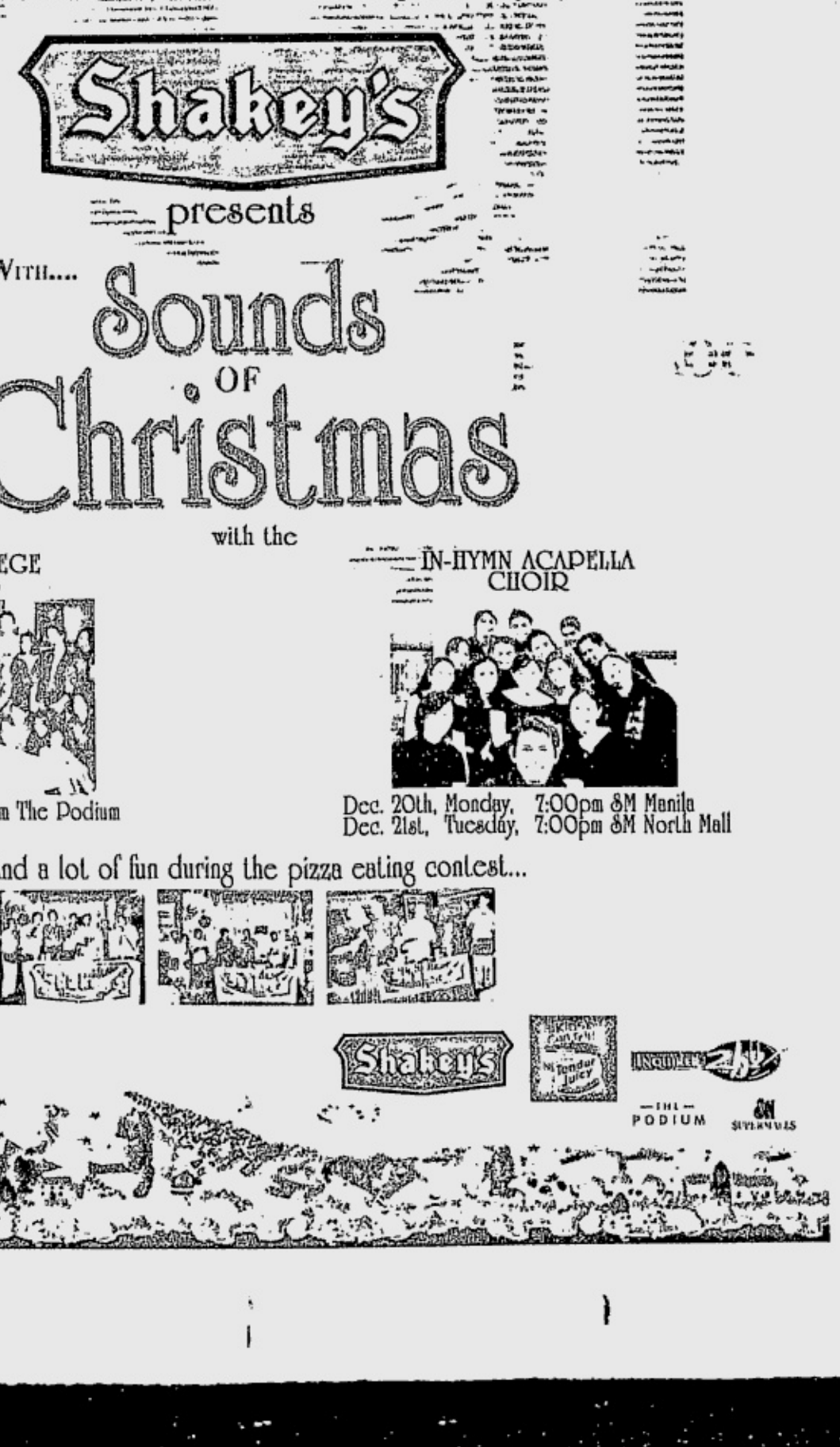
7) **"The Door in the Floor."** The first third of John Irving's "A Widow for One Year" provides the basis for a film that couldn't be more complete, with rich, complex characters, darkly comic moments and a palpable feeling of melancholy. Jeff Bridges is magnetic as a breezy, unpredictable cad of an author who offers his writing assistant (Jon Foster) to help his wife (a haunting Kim Basinger) get over the deaths of their sons during a summer in the Hamptons.

8) **"Maria Full of Grace."** Catalina Sandino Moreno shows effortless beauty, boundless confidence—and yes, grace—as a headstrong 17-year-old Colombian who becomes a drug mule to create a better life for herself and the baby she only recently realized she's carrying. That we feel sympathy for a young, pregnant woman who's bringing drugs into the United States with no remorse is a credit to the actress, but especially to writer-director Joshua Marston for creating such a complex character in his bold, solid first feature.

9) **"Before Sunset."** A lovely, beguiling little film, the sequel to 1995's "Before Sunrise" is an unusual example of a follow-up that doesn't seem forced, but expands easily on the original. Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy re-team with director Richard Linklater, with whom they wrote the screenplay, and reveal that their characters never reconnected in Vienna as they'd promised. But they end up spending a couple hours together wandering around Paris, where their banter is just as natural and their chemistry is just as alive.

10) **"Shaun of the Dead."** I love a good zombie movie. And this is the unusual horror movie that's funny, intelligent and horrific, and seamlessly so. The undead invade suburban London, and a pack of slackers (led by the pasty Simon Pegg, the film's star and co-writer) hole up at the local pub before fighting them off in makeshift fashion and with sly humor.

By that point, you actually care whether they live or die.

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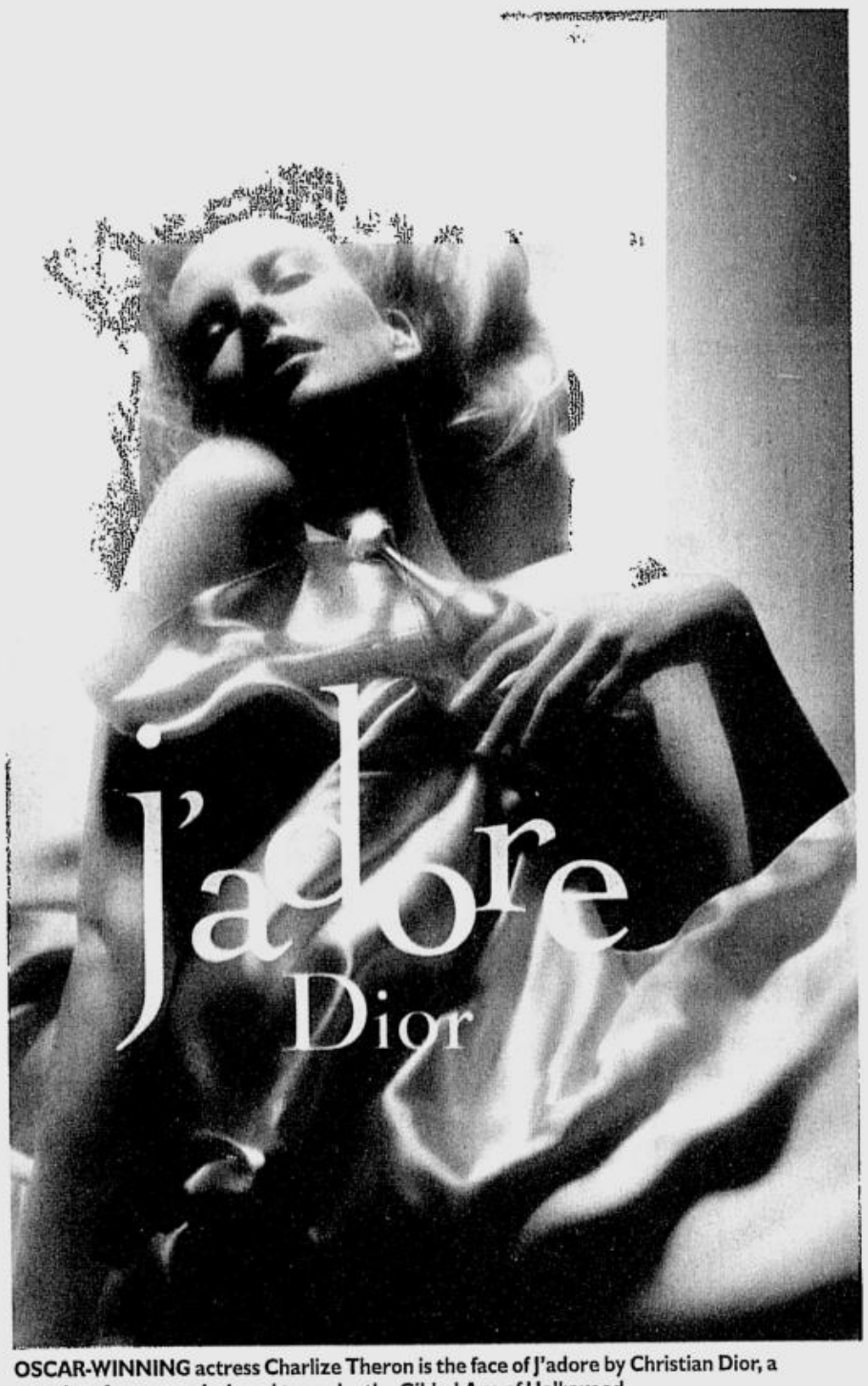



**OSCAR-WINNING** actress Charlize Theron is the face of J'adore by Christian Dior, a premium fragrance designed to evoke the Gilded Age of Hollywood.

# Charlize Theron loves this scent

J'ADORE is Dior's premiere fragrance. Since its birth five years ago, it has conquered the world, becoming the quintessence of luxury and femininity in women's fragrances.

Charlize Theron embodies the J'adore woman: classic, elegant, fascinating. The actress is the star of the new advertising campaign for the celebrated fragrance.

Theron said yes to the offer because she has always admired the personality and work of John Galliano, Dior's creative genius. At the last Golden Globes (where she accepted the Best Actress award for her role in "Monster") and also at the Cannes Film Festival, she stole the show in a gown created specially for her by the designer.

She also said yes because she loved J'adore, which she was wearing even before she was contacted for the new campaign.

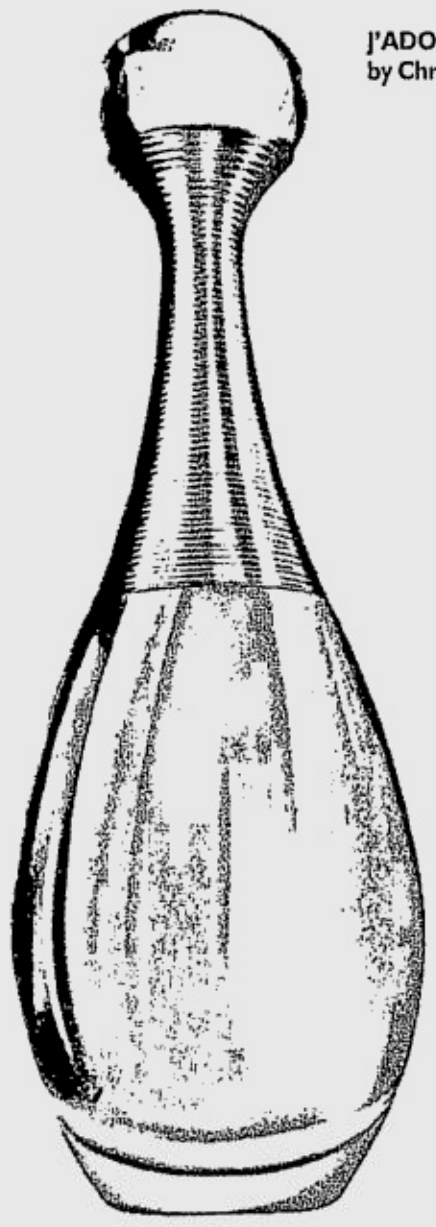
Galliano himself chose the ad director, Nick Knight, and oversaw every last detail of the shoot.

Under his watchful eye, Theron was filmed and photographed in Los Angeles, true to the grand tradition of Hollywood glamour.

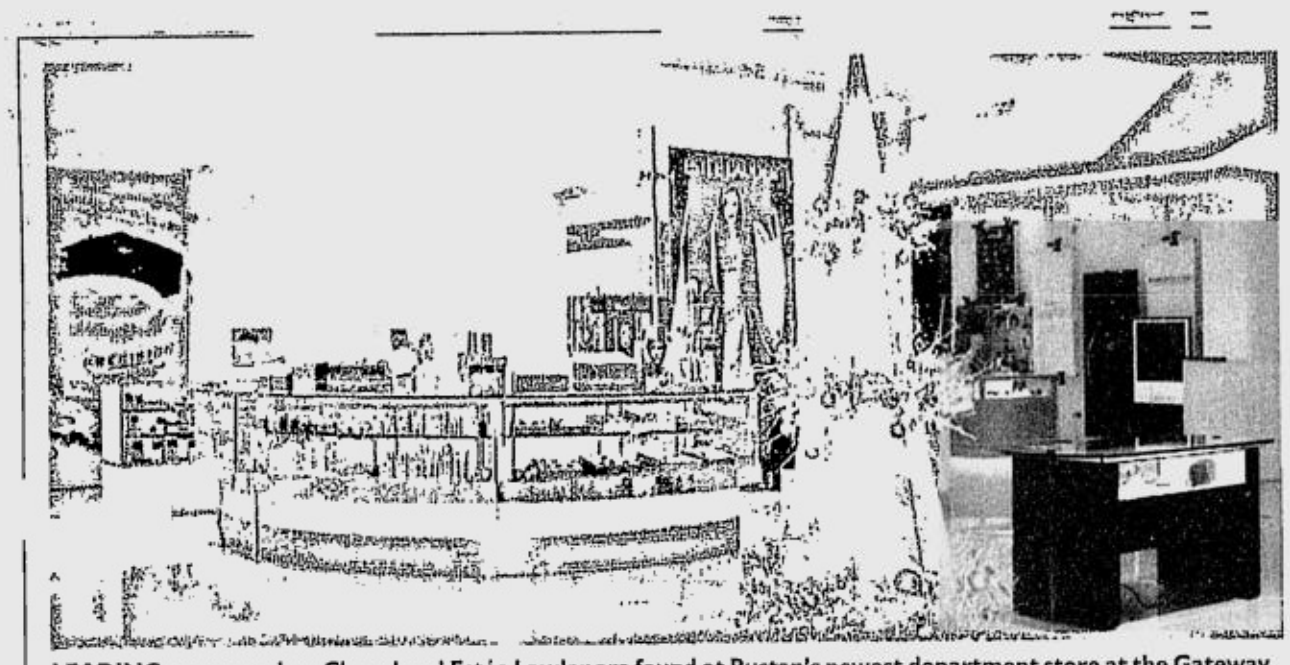
For the shoot, Galliano had the idea of swathing Charlize Theron in a silk-satin sheet of imperial gold, representing the luxury and sensuality of the fragrance. It took a dozen or so attempts before the brilliant designer was satisfied that he had the perfect shade of gold.

The sequence instantly recalls the Hollywood films of the 1950s, yet the treatment is unmistakably modern. The image plays on the contrast of light and shade to emphasize the radiant beauty of Theron's face and the intensity of her acting. She gets her iconic close-up when she speaks the word "J'adore."

A golden fragrance has found its classic embodiment.



**J'ADORE**
**by Christian Dior**



**LEADING** names such as Chanel and Estée Lauder are found at Rustan's newest department store at the Gateway Mall.

**MONT** Blanc, a leading name in writing instruments and leather goods for men, recently opened its doors at Rustan's Gateway Mall.

# *Luxury store opens in Cubao*

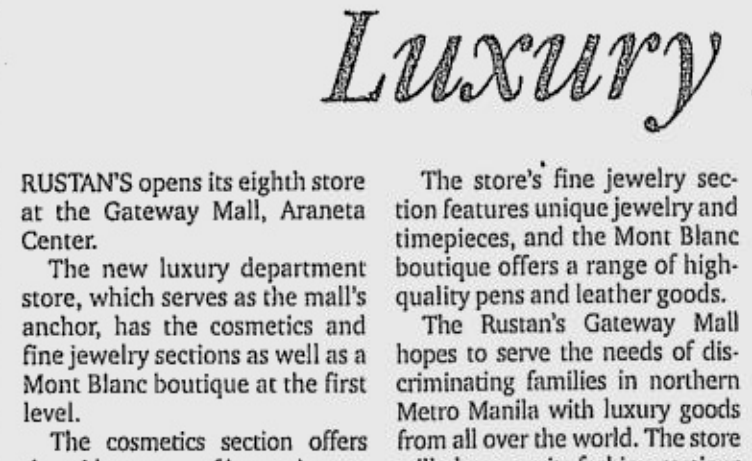
RUSTAN'S opens its eighth store at the Gateway Mall, Araneta Center.

The new luxury department store, which serves as the mall's anchor, has the cosmetics and fine jewelry sections as well as a Mont Blanc boutique at the first level.

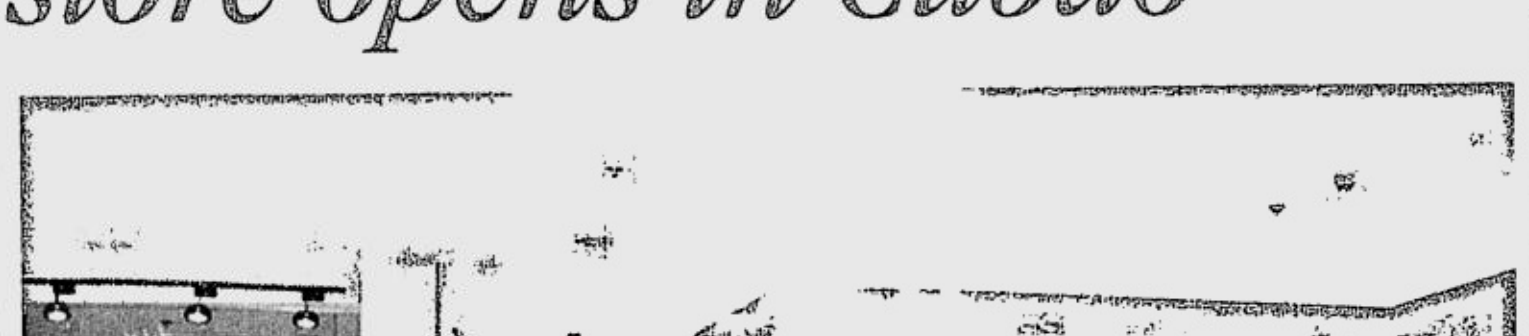
The cosmetics section offers the widest range of luxury beauty brands like Chanel, Clarins and Estee Lauder. Essenses also carries niche brands such as Murad, Dermalogica, Laura Mercier, Woods of Windsor and Phyto.

The store's fine jewelry section features unique jewelry and timepieces, and the Mont Blanc boutique offers a range of high-quality pens and leather goods.

The Rustan's Gateway Mall hopes to serve the needs of discriminating families in northern Metro Manila with luxury goods from all over the world. The store will also open its fashion sections for men, ladies, young adults and children, featuring the best international labels, as well as a home section offering a wide array of furnishings and products.



**RUSTAN'S Gateway's fine jewelry selection features unique pieces and well-known names.**



**AT RUSTAN'S Gateway Mall, one can find Essenses' top-selling brands like Acca Kappa, Samba, Woods of Windsor and Laura Mercier.**

JENNY Chan

LIA Andanar-Yu

FIONA Lucas

RHODA Campos, Anton Mendoza and Gia Estrella

ERIKA Fife and Shanen Lau

# Making a mark in the makeup world

BONG, MAC Shangri-La's makeup artist, at work

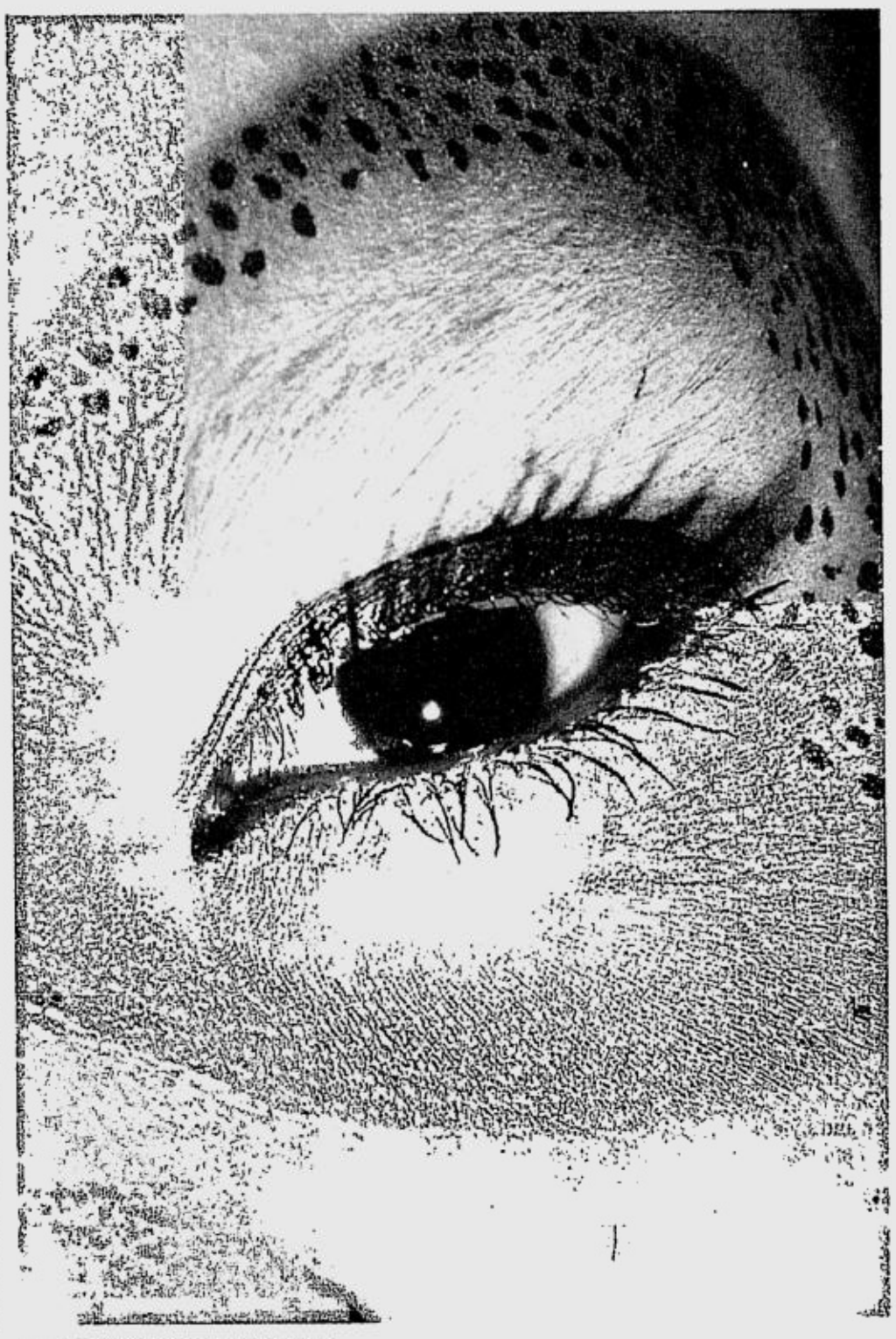
MAC, one of the most popular cosmetic brands in the world, has opened a new 570-sq m outlet at Rustan's Shangri-La Mall.

The new store was launched via a show at the Shangri-La Mall's atrium. Ballet dancers showcased the artistry of MAC's makeup artists by wearing hand-painted tutus rendered by MAC's Malaysian artists. Models paraded the newest MAC look dubbed "Tempt Me, Tease Me" as executed by MAC's Manila Team.

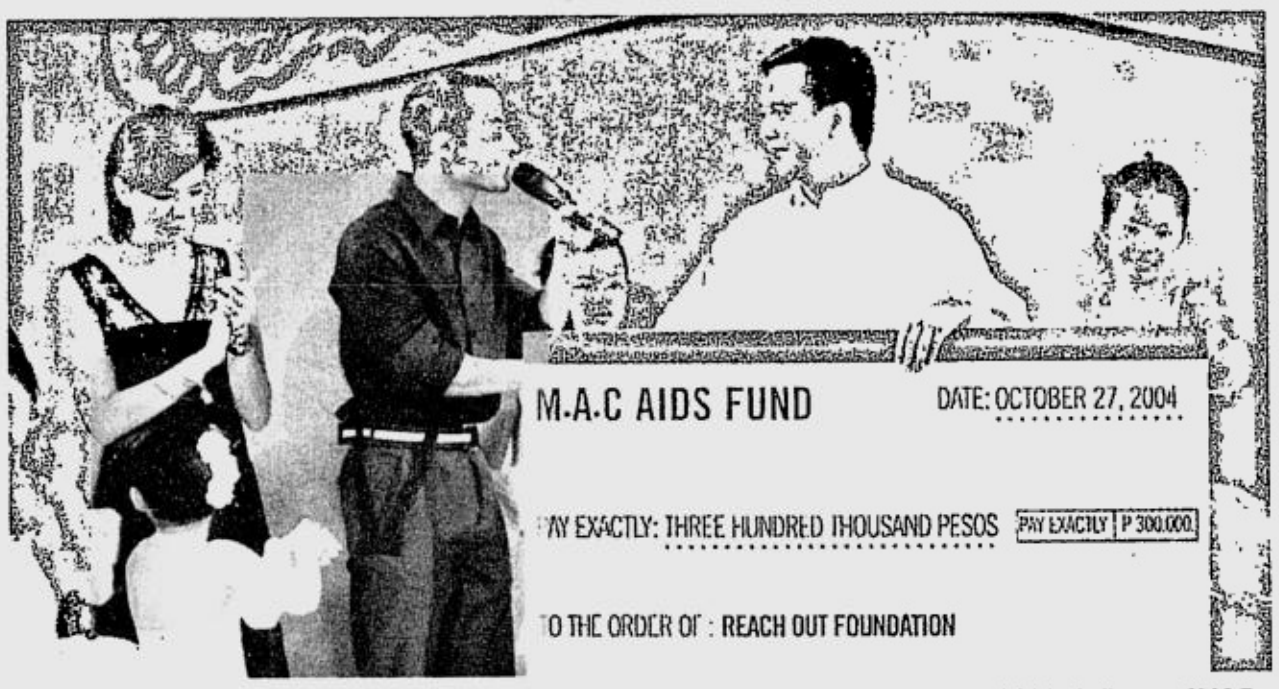
The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a check of P300,000 to the Reach Out Foundation. Joel Tantoco, vice president of Rustan's, and Valerie Foong of MAC Malaysia, handed over the check to Jomar Flanas, who represented the Reach Out Foundation.

The sum represents all sales of MAC's Viva Glam lipsticks in Manila, which had been pledged to AIDS charities.

MAC has over 1,000 products used for professional makeup application and for personal use. MAC's first store in the Philippines is located at Rustan's flagship store in Ayala Center, Makati.

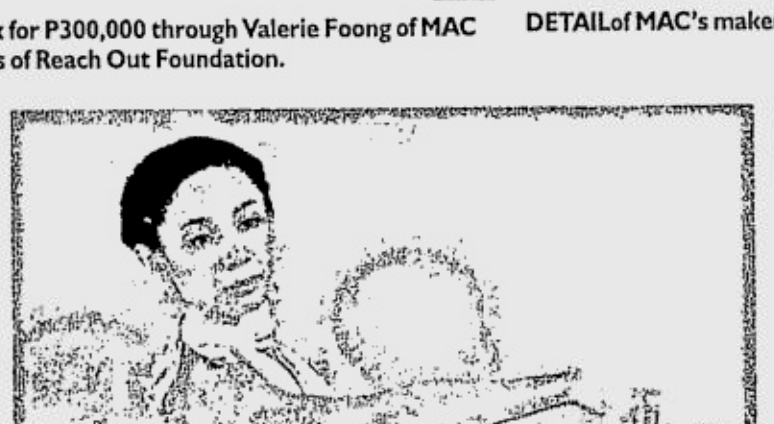


DETAILof MAC's makeup artistry




DURING the launch of its Shangri-La boutique, MAC presented a check for P300,000 through Valerie Foong of MAC Malaysia (left) and Joel Tantoco, Rustan's vice president, to Jomar Fleras of Reach Out Foundation.

MAKEUP artistry spills over to fashion with MAC Malaysia's Caressa Hanoom painting a ballerina's skirt.



A BALLERINA wearing a handpainted MAC skirt

A MODEL parades the newest MAC look dubbed "Tempt Me, Tease Me."

# Scent of a star

TOMMY Hilfiger Toiletries has launched a new women's fragrance collection inspired by global superstar Beyoncé, called True Star.

The collection captures the essence of the American superstar and her gleaming confidence and radiance.

"Tommy's new captivating fragrance celebrates all the dazzle, mystery and passion of a shining star. With her chart-topping talent, on-stage electricity and stellar beauty, Beyoncé embodies the qualities of which so many of our female consumers aspire to. True Star is for every woman who wants to feel spectacular," says Fabrice Weber, president, Aramis and Designer Fragrances.

Comfort and sensuality are at the essence of the True Star collection. The Eau de Parfum, body lotion, shower gel, fragrance satin shimmer and deodorant spray contain a blend of ingredients inspired by the appeal of Beyoncé's celebrity, while also portraying the essence of her more personal and private side.

The scent contains contrasting florals as well as notes of toasted grains, creating a caressing softness that is both warm and familiar.

In creating the fragrance, Beyoncé wanted to ensure that her personal spirit, sophistication and style were conveyed.

"I am really conscious of people getting to know who I am. I always try to create a signature word in my lyrics and signature move in my videos, and now I am proud to introduce a special signature scent. I hope True Star will be an inspiration to every woman," says Beyoncé.

The True Star Eau de Parfum sculpted glass bottle and integrated pump is designed to resemble an award with a tall and slender tapered shape to fit comfortably in the palm of a woman's hand.

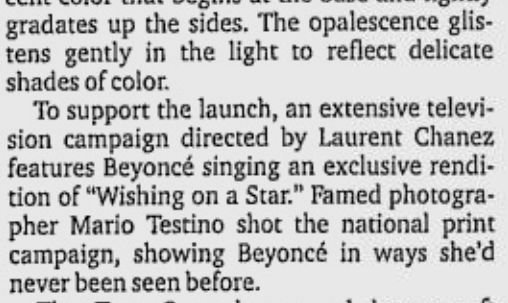
The bottle is clear glass, with a soft opalescent color that begins at the base and lightly gradates up the sides. The opalescence glistens gently in the light to reflect delicate shades of color.

To support the launch, an extensive television campaign directed by Laurent Chanez features Beyoncé singing an exclusive rendition of "Wishing on a Star." Famed photographer Mario Testino shot the national print campaign, showing Beyoncé in ways she'd never been seen before.

The True Star shower gel has a soft whipped texture with an emollient lather that gently cleanses the skin. The skin is left soft, refreshed and lightly scented.

The body lotion has a silky and lightweight formula that absorbs quickly into the skin without leaving a greasy after-feel, while the deodorant natural spray is designed for women who want long-lasting odor protection. Its lightweight and quick-drying formula is non-sticky and non-staining, and can also be used as an all-over body deodorant.

Call 8442451 loc. 118, fax (632) 8440848.
Available at Rustan's Essenses.




essenses

MARK SAN DIEGO
VJ, MODEL
There is nothing more refreshing than a cool splash of water on your skin. When I use my essenses body splash, that feeling stays with me all day.

Rustan's
MAKATI ALABANG ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA CEBU

SISLEŸA Global Anti-Age

## *Nature-nourished skin*

DEPENDING on the season, the skin is more or less subject to "pulling" caused by exposure to the cold, wind, sun or any other element likely to make it dry and uncomfortable. Furthermore, mature skin is known to undergo various degrees of dehydration.

In order to achieve the unique comfort demanded by this type of skin, Sisley Laboratories have used the tried and tested active ingredients in Sisleÿa Global Anti-Age, adding other elements chosen among nature's most precious substances for improved skin comfort, among them:

Sunflower oil as a source of specific glycerides. Rich in oleic acid—essential fatty acid contained in vitamin F— this oil works to nourish and revitalize skin, increasing its suppleness.

Phytosqualene, derived from unsaponifiable Olive Oil. This molecule is very similar to squalene, one of the main constituents of the skin's natural sebum. It has emollient and moisturizing qualities.

A glucolipid of plant origin—Cornand Coconut Oil. These three nourishing and moisturizing ingredients work in synergy with all other active ingredients contained in Sisleÿa Global Anti-Age in order to provide skin with a perfectly tolerated, made-to-measure texture.

Available at Rustan's Essenses.

COMPTOIR Sud Pacifique's Aqua Motu candle

# Remembrance of leisures past

CANDLES have been transformed from functional objects to decorative pieces. Today's candles, which can cost from a few pesos to a couple of thousands, are used to create different moods and soothe the senses with their unique fragrances.

Some candles, however, offer more than just romantic ambience, like the candles of Comptoir Sud Pacifique, a company that specializes in fragrances. Most of its scents recall familiar vacation destinations and brings one back to a place of relaxation and leisure.

Aqua Motu, one of the brand's signature fragrances, captures the scent of fresh breeze blowing in from the high seas and carrying with it particles of warm sand.

The woody scent of Couer de Vahine evokes a sensuous paradise, while the sweet scent of Vanilla Abricot gives the feeling of being in a warm tropical jungle.

Candles such as these are ideal for vacation homes situated in the woods or by the beach. But their three-tiered fragrance is also useful in city dwellings, especially when one wants to relax and unwind and be taken away from the urban environment even for just a few hours.

Having one of Comptoir Sud Pacifique's signature fragrance candles in one's room is always a precious luxury.

Available at Rustan's Essenses.

essenses

**TWEETIE DE LEON**
EDITOR, MODEL, DESIGNER AND MOTHER
Pregnancy becomes a glorious experience when I pamper myself with luxurious body creams from essenses.

MAKATI · ALABANG · ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA · CEBU

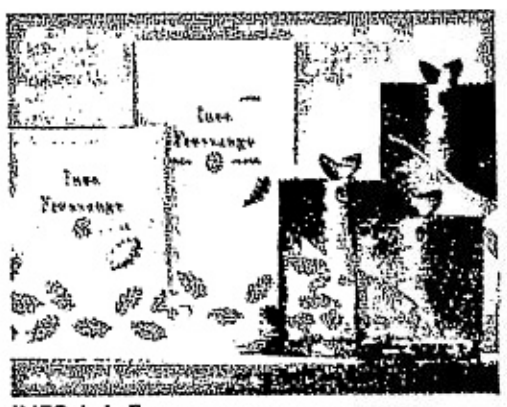
Rustan's

# Fresh, playful, sensuous

THE FRAGRANCE Ines de la Fressange epitomizes a fresh femininity, a blend of humor and sophistication. It combines tradition and provocation, classicism and eccentricity.

The perfume's scent has traces of white rose and peonies, iris, virginal neroli and lily of the valley. The final note is musky, with all the insolence of patchouli.

The fragrance is encased in a transparent gold bottle. Floating in the transparency of the glass are tiny oak leaves, delicately engraved. Tall and slender, the whole bottle is topped off by a jewel-cap in the form of a chiseled acorn, the fruit of the oak.



INES de la Fressange

# Luminous masculinity

ESCADA has a new scent called Escada Sentiment Pour Homme.

Homme Sentiment is the man at the heart of the Escada house. It is a refreshingly exotic fragrance, a luminous woody scent that embodies elegance, modernity, color and joy of life.

Its subtle union of unusual ingredients, green accords and musky notes unite into a tenderly masculine fragrance.

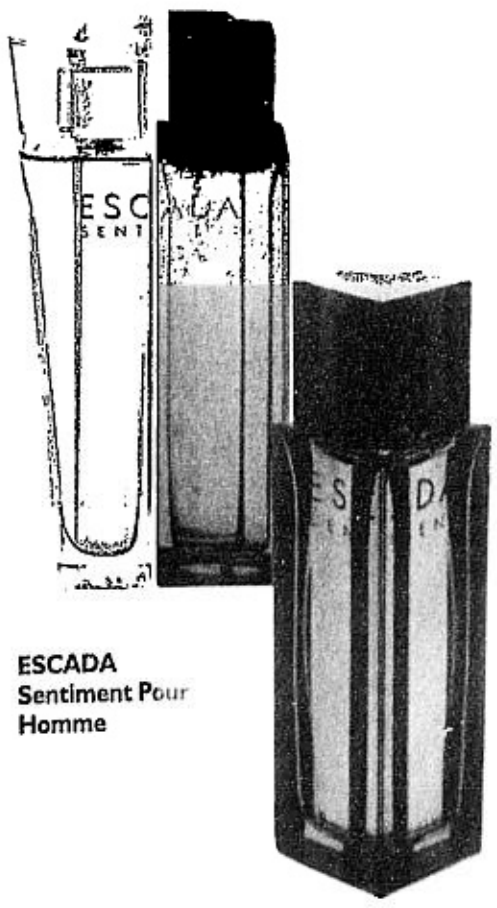
The top notes marry the force of jackfruit with the vitality of lime, plus a dash of juniper berries.

The middle notes carry spicy Lombok combined with pink pepper and backed up by the warm, sweet pleasure of mace and the aromatic bark of nutmeg.

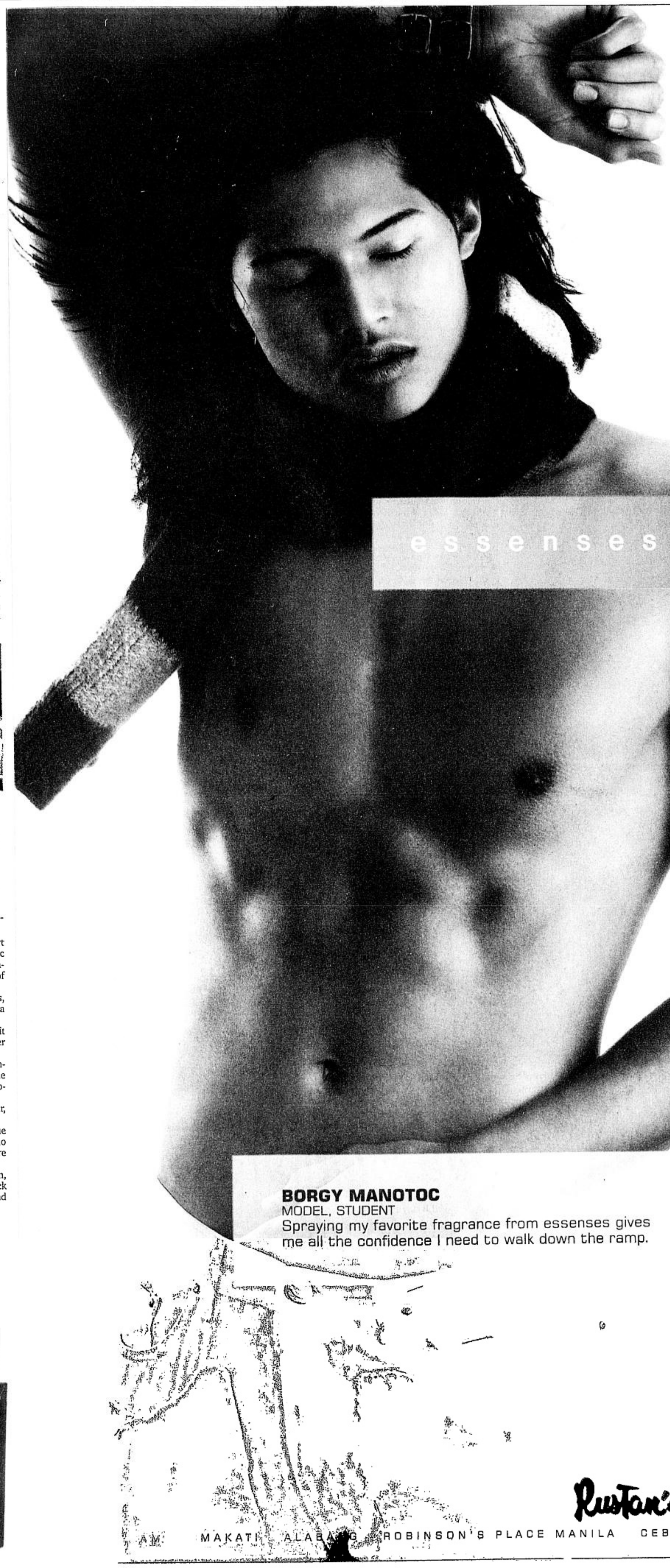
The woody base notes contain Atlas Cedar, Mysore Sandal and Vetiver.

This fragrance is the work of Dominique Ropion and Laurent Bruyère, perfumers who deployed cutting-edge techniques to capture new scents for Sentiment Pour Homme.

Serge Mansau created the bottle design, with its angular forms sculpted out of a block of lacquered vivid magenta glass and crowned with a cabochon in Surlyn.



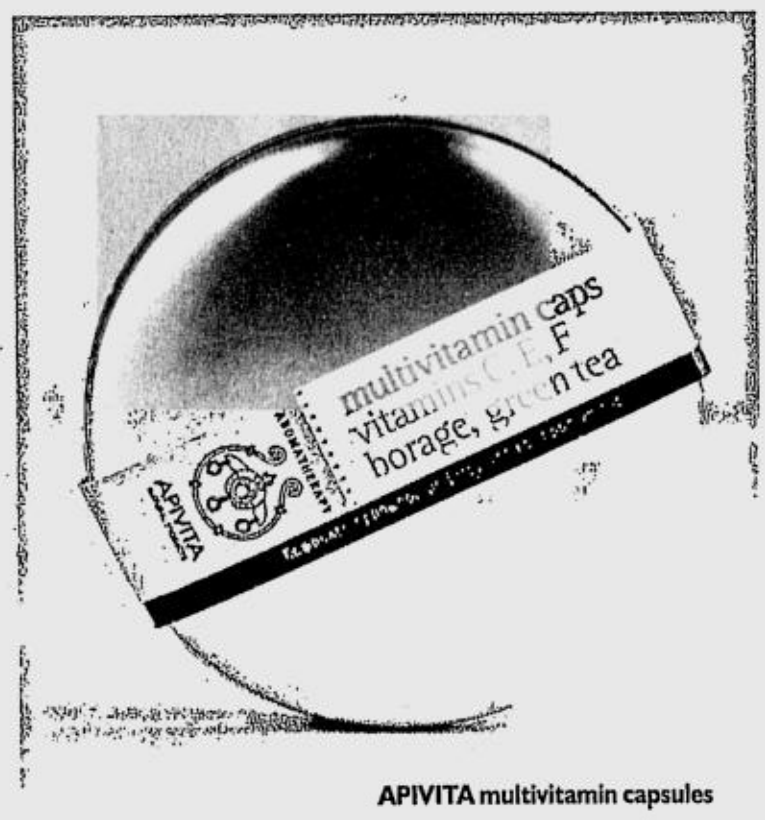
ESCADA
Sentiment Pour
Homme



A PROPOLINE shampoo variant

DREAM skin face cream

METAMORPHOSIS body set




APIVITA multivitamin capsules

# Sounds Greek, feels great

By Kinny D. Salas

THERE is a new cosmetic and toiletries kid in the Essenses block. It is a Greek line called Apivita (from the Greek "Apis"-bee and "Vita"-life).

The brand was founded by pharmacists Nikos and Niki Koutsiana in 1979, who set out to make cosmetics that had natural medicinal properties on top of their aesthetic benefits.

This duo did not stop at face and body care but also formulated toiletries like toothpaste and shampoo for special needs.

Apivita's botanists and scientific team use products such as honey, wax propolis, pollen and royal jelly, as well as herbs of biological value which are grown in Macedonia, North Greece, Chios Island and the Aegean Sea.

Due to its dedication to all-natural formulas, Apitiva's products do not contain artificial fragrances. So although some products may not smell great, they work well and the smell won't stick to you anyway.

Apitiva has three lines: Propoline, Aromatherapy and Body Spa.

**Propoline:** This is Apitiva's flagship product, which is named after propolis, the natural disinfectant of bees. It is Greece's leading cosmeceutical brand, offering effective, natural solutions to any skin need.

Propoline's shampoos have the highest market share in pharmacies in Greece. It has 12 kinds of shampoo that tackle everything from hair loss to head lice.

There's also a cream that removes bruises and soothes sunburns and minor wounds. It's called First Aid Balsam, and it's the line's second best seller.

My favorite Propoline product is the shampoo for oily hair with dry ends, and conditioner for dry colored ends.

The shower gel has olive and chamomile green tea, while the SPF-15 lip balm is a no-nonsense solution to very dry lips. My chronic chapped lips found relief in Lip Aid Propolis.

Also available are insect repellent lotions, wet tissue wipes, even a Rescue Pen for quick relief from jellyfish stings and insect bites.

**Aromatherapy:** This line is for those who are obsessed with all-natural botanical aromas. Taken mostly from fruits and vegetables, the products are mostly for the face, unlike Propoline which is for all-around hygiene purposes.

The face creams come in pretty stackable jars that you can easily pack in your traveling kit. There's a solution for every face ailment.

For my oily skin, the day cream is perfect with its grapefruit extract that ensures proper hydration and balances oiliness. The night cream brown rice nourishes and revitalizes skin without over-stimulating the oil glands.

I also highly recommend the multivitamin beauty capsules with vitamins C, E, F, borage and green tea, and the SPF-10 multivitamin face cream with orange, acerola, and green tea. The cream is non-greasy, smells fresh, and gives your complexion a great glow.

The capsules are meant to be used once a day for 30 days on areas that look dull, dehydrated or has minor sun damage. That ought to give them a much-needed antioxidant feast.

**Body Spa:** As the name suggests, the line is for those who are addicted to spas and wish to bring the feel and environment of such exclusive pampering to their home.

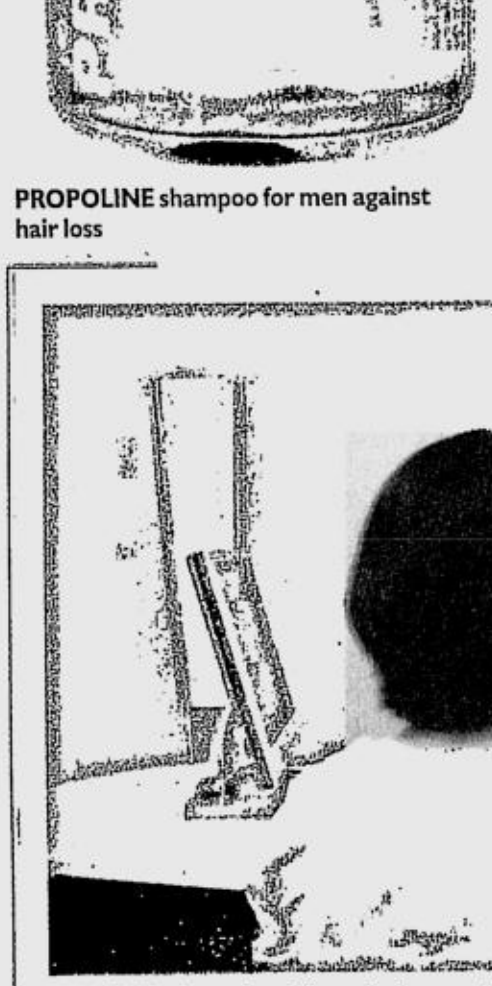
The Metamorphosis anti-cellulite body system and massage oil is fast becoming a bestseller, and no wonder, with many women becoming obsessed with cellulite reduction.

Three basic fragrances are present in a whole array of products from shampoo, bath products, body scrub and oils. These fragrances are Harmony, Energy and Euphoria.

Euphoria, with its white chocolate, vanilla and white tea aromas, is my hands-down favorite, followed by Energy (ginger, lime and green tea), then Harmony (bergamot, sandalwood and jasmine).

*E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com*

*Available at Rustan's Essenses*




PROPOLINE shampoo for men against hair loss

METAMORPHOSIS serum

METAMORPHOSIS body scrub

TRAINED therapists follow the international standards developed by Dr. Howard Murad.

THE MURAD Spa in Rustan's Makati has four treatment rooms, a consultation area and relaxation room for clients.

# *Unique solutions to skin dilemmas*

THE MURAD Spa was opened by Dr. Howard Murad, AmbassadorBienvenido Tantoco Sr. and Rico Tantoco.

MURAD has opened its first skin center outside of the United States at Rustan's flagship Makati branch.

This new facility offers a range of treatments that addresses different skincare needs, with trained therapists who follow the international standards developed by Dr. Howard Murad, a top dermatologist in the United States.

The Murad Center offers signature Murad treatments that create unique solutions to skin problems. These treatments include the Vitamin C Absolute Facial, where a powerful formulation of pure Vitamin C is delivered into the skin to restore elasticity, firmness, hydration and evens skin tone. The Vitamin C Absolute Facial repairs and prevents damage resulting from environmental exposure.

Another unique treatment is the Clarifying Enzyme Professional Treatment that reduces skin redness, hyper pigmentation and fine lines, as well as treats blackheads, clogged pores and acne breakouts.

The Clarifying Enzyme Professional Treatment utilizes natural fruit enzymes of papaya and pineapple which are combined with anti-oxidants—antiseptic and anti-inflammatory ingredients that cool irritated skin.

MURAD skin treatments help bring back skin firmness, multi-layer skin hydration and reduction of fine lines and wrinkles.

BO Ramas-Ros, Ces Drilon and Jue Wong

# Unique solutions to skin dilemmas

From page L6

The AHA Rapid Exfoliator Facial diminishes lines and wrinkles with a concentrated dose of glycolic acid, removing dead skin cells to reveal a softer, smoother complexion.

These treatments are conducted in a cozy and private facility at the topmost floor of Rustan's Makati. Guests are ushered into an intimate waiting area. Before they undergo treatment, they are examined by a dermatologist using a UV camera that detects skin damage not apparent to the human eye. A treatment is then recommended and a therapist assigned to the guest.

Call 8161806.

CORY Quirino

JEFF Murad and Sigalit Djemal

DR. Howard Murad, Celine Lopez and Nena Tantoco

TRISH Briones, Mia Tambunting-Padilla and Joel Tantoco

MARITESS Tantoco, Anton Mendoza and Rhoda Campos

BUBBLES Paraiso, Gem Padilla and Toni Abad

essenses

BEA VALDES
DESIGNER, MODEL.
As an artist, I adapt to the latest fashion trends every season. But the one thing that remains constant is my lipstick from essenses.

Rustan's
MAKATI ALABANG ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA CEBU

212 MEN on Ice
by Carolina
Herrera

# Holiday scent-iments

CAROLINA Herrera offers 212 Sexy's holiday gift set. This comes with Hydrating Body Lotion.

Gucci's Envy is a modern, transparent, floral fragrance from a blend of hyacinth, magnolia, lily of the valley, jasmine, violet and iris. The package comes with a body lotion and bath and shower gel.

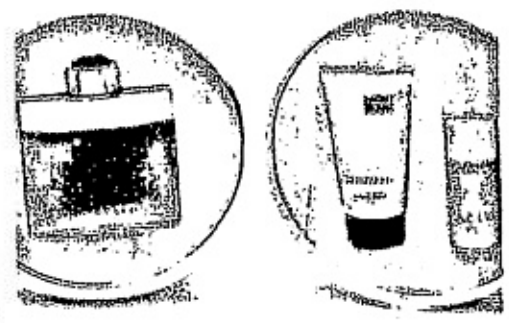
Yves Saint Laurent's Baby Doll is a lighthearted fragrance which has spawned three versions of the fruity-floral scent: Baby Doll Light, Baby Doll Fairytale and Baby Doll Light Limited Edition.

Paco Rabanne Pour Elle Metal eau de parfum has an intense, sensual character. It features Italian mandarin, white pepper and white freesia in the top notes; absolute rose, jasmine, karo karounde in the middle notes; and amber, peach and massoia wood in the base.

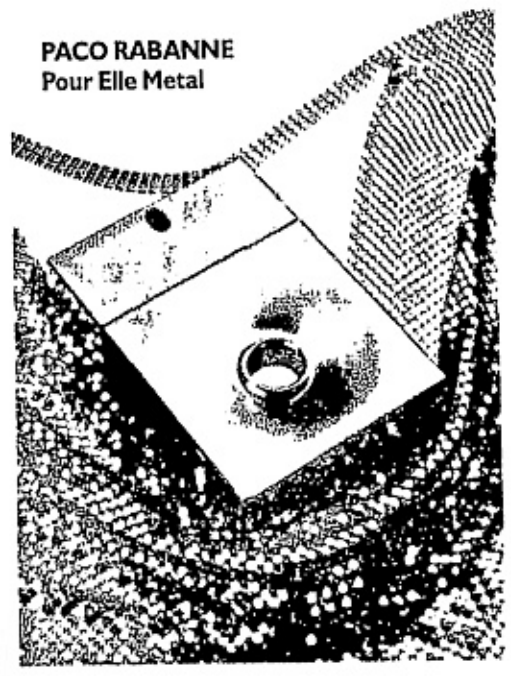
Mont Blanc Individuel for men creates an expression of exclusivity and distinction. It is a fresh, soft Oriental fougere for the man whose confident sense of self sets him apart. The gift set comes with a Deo-Stick and Shower Breeze shower gel.

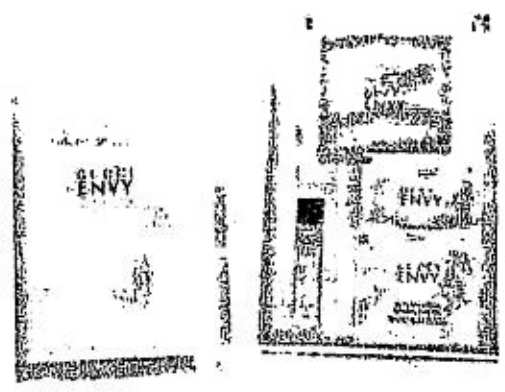
Paco Rabanne XS is a fresh woody fragrance, full of sensuality and magnetic appeal. The gift set comes with a Deospray.

Carolina Herrera's 212 Men on Ice has hints of orange blossom, tangerine, nutmeg and coriander mixed with musk and sandalwood notes. Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation.



**MONT BLANC** Individuel for men




**GUCCI** Envy

**212 SEXY** by Carolina Herrera

**MARTIN NIEVERA**
PERFORMER, IMAGE MODEL, FATHER
A good performance is assured when I light my favorite candle from essenses 30 minutes before I go onstage.

Rustan's

MAKATI ALABANG ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA CEBU

INQUIRER

# JOB Market

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004
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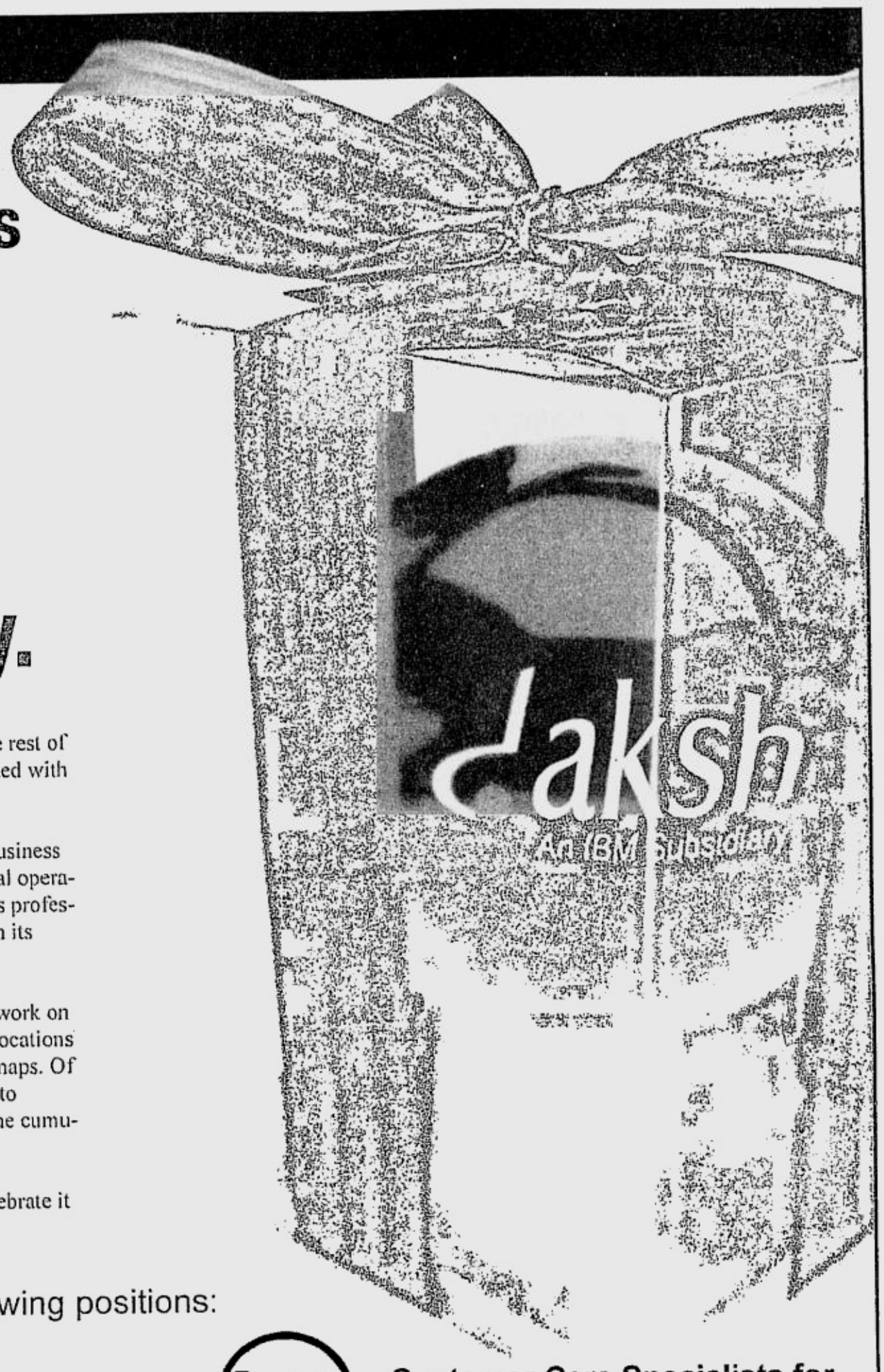
## What's the best present you can give yourself this Christmas?

## Get a career with Daksh, an IBM Subsidiary.




Don't just think of this year's Christmas. Think of your future and the rest of the coming Christmases. Now is the time to give yourself a gift: get started with your career in Daksh, an IBM Subsidiary.

As a subsidiary of IBM, the world's largest information technology and business solutions company, Daksh is all set to spearhead the next generation global operations in business transformation. With an accent on redefining world-class professionalism through best global practices, the challenge today, is to focus on its leadership horizon.

Daksh offers unprecedented career advantages such as an opportunity to work on Fortune 500 clients along with 6000 colleagues at the 5 service delivery locations across the world, performance-led vertical and horizontal career growth maps. Of course, Daksh provides a work environment that enables each individual to perform better in a team and learn from over 70 business processes and the cumulative experience of the team at our helm.

Give yourself the gift of a career with Daksh, an IBM Subsidiary and celebrate it with the Brand Masters and the Big Blue.

We are looking for individuals to fill the following positions:

**Customer Care Specialists for Banking, Finance and Insurance**

**Customer Care Specialists for Travel and Hospitality**

**Customer Care Specialists for Telecommunications**

**Customer Care Specialist ( JOB CODE: PDI – CCS )**
Responsible for providing excellent customer service and inbound sales through phone on a 24x7 basis.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Has less than 1 year related work experience; Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply or those who have no related prior work experience
- Willingness and drive to do inbound sales is required; previous experience is an advantage
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment is a must

**Openings for CCS are for immediate hiring.**

**Applicants for CCS can email their resume to *applications@daksh.com***

Applicants for VA and Sales Trainer can email their resume to ***careerphilippines@daksh.com***

**Voice and Accent Trainer ( JOB CODE: PDI – VATRN )**
Responsible for conducting voice and accent training to new hires

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree, Linguistics or Arts is preferred
- At least 1 year experience in a similar position or its equivalent
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Familiar with linguistics and facilitating grammar and speech classes
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment is a must

**Sales Trainer ( JOB CODE: PDI – SALES )**
Responsible for training and motivating the sales force towards agreed objectives and achievement of the prescribed target.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Must possess a passion for selling and telemarketing
- Has experience in designing and conducting sales training to telemarketers
- Must possess excellent sales, training and motivational skills
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting

**To join Daksh, an IBM Subsidiary:**

1. Visit us at the 30th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City from Mondays-Fridays 9:00 am - 6:00pm. Bring your resume for an immediate interview.
2. To learn more about Daksh, visir **www.daksh.com.ph**

Call 81-DAKSH (32574) for more details.

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- develop media plans and oversees execution and budget management
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**Job Qualifications**

Minimum Requirements:

- **Education:**
  – College graduate
- **Experience Desired:**
  – 5 years advertising experience
- **Experience Preferred:**
  – Agency experience
  – Retail experience

- **Other Skills needed:**
  – Ability to think conceptually and strategically
  – Excellent written and verbal communication skills
  – Strong project management skills
  – Strong presentation skills
  – Proactive
  – Solid interpersonal skills
  – Positive attitude
  – Team player.

*Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:*

*SM Shoemart*
*SM Corporate Office*
*Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park*
*Bay City, Pasay City*

*Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com*
*E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com*

*(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History print out and photocopy and original copy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)*

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

## ACCOUNT MANAGERS

**THE JOB:** Ensure achievement of targeted Sales, Revenue and profit from diverse array of products / services offering by effective prospecting and account management within a targeted group of accounts within one or more industry segments, where Fuji Xerox products / service offerings are positioned uniquely for competitive advantage; Lead the creation of proposal recommendation, negotiation and implementation of proposed solutions; Ensure promotion / achievement of brand loyalty and generate sound prospects for repeat business.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** At least 25 years old, preferably a Bachelor of Science degree holder of Management, Marketing, Computer Science or any related course. Self–motivated, experience in IT application a plus, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, as well as, excellent presentation and negotiation skills. Results – oriented, customer – focused, at least three (3) years working experience in sales and marketing , and with above average IQ.

## BUSINESS ANALYST

**THE JOB:** Work with customers, in all levels of the organization to understand the customer's business strategy and its impact on work processes and document flows within the customer organization; Identify / develop potential solutions encompassing people, processes and ultimately enhance productivity for Fuji Xerox customers.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** At least 25 years old, College Graduate, with three (3) years experience in the Information Technology ( IT ) industry as analyst. Self–motivated, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, as well as, excellent presentation and negotiation skills. Results–oriented, customer–focused, and with above average IQ. Has basic financial skills.

## PRODUCT MANAGERS

**THE JOB:** To provide leadership in managing a product or group of products to ensure maximum market penetration and profitability

**QUALIFICATIONS:** College Graduate with Bachelor of Science degree in Management / Marketing, an MBA degree is an advantage. Has a combined minimum four (4) years experience in Marketing and Sales with minimum two (2) years experience in product or brand management / marketing. Knowledge of Industry – based marketing including distribution methods and technologies is preferred. Prior project management and market analysis experience is a plus. Has analytical and decision making capabilities and is highly innovative, focused and driven. Possesses above average intelligence with good interpersonal and communication skills.

**FUJI XEROX PHILIPPINES, INC.**
**Human Resource Division**
**19th Floor, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**
**Tel. Nos. 8785200 loc. 137. Please look for: Ms. Juvy J. Vidal**
**or E-mail: juvy.vidal@phl.xerox.com**

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**EBDI PHILIPPINES INC. (Formerly Alcatel eBusiness Distribution, Inc.),** is a multinational company known of its over **30 Years Excellent Service Commitment** in providing **Voice and Data Solutions** to its hundreds of clients both local and abroad. In preparation to its expansion phase, **WE ARE ADDING FORCE TO OUR SALES TEAM !**

We are in need of **Three (3)**

## ACCOUNT MANAGERS

who are willing to start immediately. He/She must possess the following qualifications:

- Graduate of Information Technology courses or ECE
- Should have at least 2 years experience in Sales with Outstanding Track Record, preferrably in a company of same industry
- Excellent Presentation Skill in English
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- Can effectively deal with the executives of top corporations and agencies
- Organized, self-driven, result-oriented and can perform well under pressures

For the qualified applicants, we offer Fix Monthly Basic, Transportation Allowance, Communication Allowance, above industry Commission Scheme, and other competitive benefits. Trainings and travel opportunities here and abroad.

Please handcarry your comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 photo, copy of Transcript of Records, NBI Clearance and copy of Employment Certificates, to:

**EBDI Philippines Inc., 2nd floor Pilgrim Bldg., 111 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**
**For further inquiries, call 857-78-75, look for Jun Taccad**

**R**espect and value people, cultures, differences and contributions

**E**ncourage an open and honest envir...

**S**upport the company, our colleagues, our ... stor and our community

**P**ractice what we preach, and be role model for the operating principles

**E**njoy the company of o... colleagues, our work and have fu...

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At Pru Life Insurance Corporation of U.K. RESPECT is more than a value – it is the culture.

We invite men and women to consider our current requirements and discover the culture of RESPECT amidst the highly exciting and competitive field of life insurance.

## AGENCY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

(North Mindanao, West Visayas, Bicol)
Must be 30-45 years old, a graduate of Management or Marketing and with a minimum of 5 years sales management and training experience with a reputable insurance or pre-need company. Has established residence in the area being considered. With a strong network and business contacts in the specific area of assignment.

## REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

(Visayas & Mindanao)
Must be at least 35 to 45 years old, a graduate of Management or Marketing, with at least 5 years of successful track record in insurance sales management, preferably in Visayas and Mindanao. Applicant should have excellent communication and interpersonal sills, and a strong drive to achieve challenging targets. We are looking for a highly energetic individual who will push for business goals relentlessly, while speaking and acting with integrity at all times.

If you think you can take up the challenges for these positions, send us your resume before Dec. 28, 2004

**You may submit your resumé, copy of transcript of records and ID picture to:**

**Human Resources Department**
**Pru Life Insurance Corporation of U.K.**

**25/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center**
**6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas and Dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City**
**E-mail address: HR@prulifeuk.com.ph**
**Website: www.prulife.com.ph**

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We sell various financial services in partnership **with one of the country's top 5 universal banks** and with the **biggest Filipino life insurance company.**

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## FINANCIAL PLANNERS / SALES COORDINATORS

Qualifications :
- Age 21-30, Male or Female
- College Graduate from a reputable school
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We offer a guaranteed monthly compensation plus attractive incentives and a comprehensive training program.

Please apply personally and bring your resume with recent 2x2 picture at the address below from :

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**1501 West Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

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*email: basicworldmanpower@yahoo.com*

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P.O. Box 13135 Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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Are you experienced in Quality?
Are you passionate about passing on your knowledge and experience to others? We are looking for the right people to successfully teach and motivate students to learn English.
The successful applicants will need to be well organised, flexible and have excellent management skills
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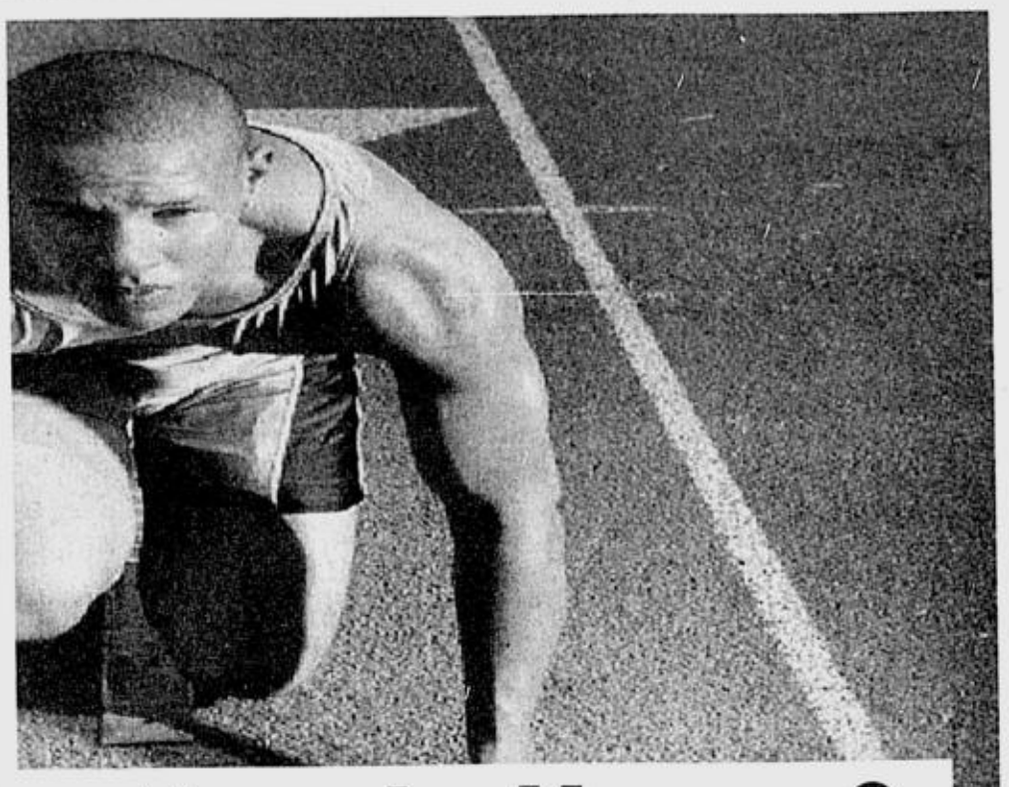

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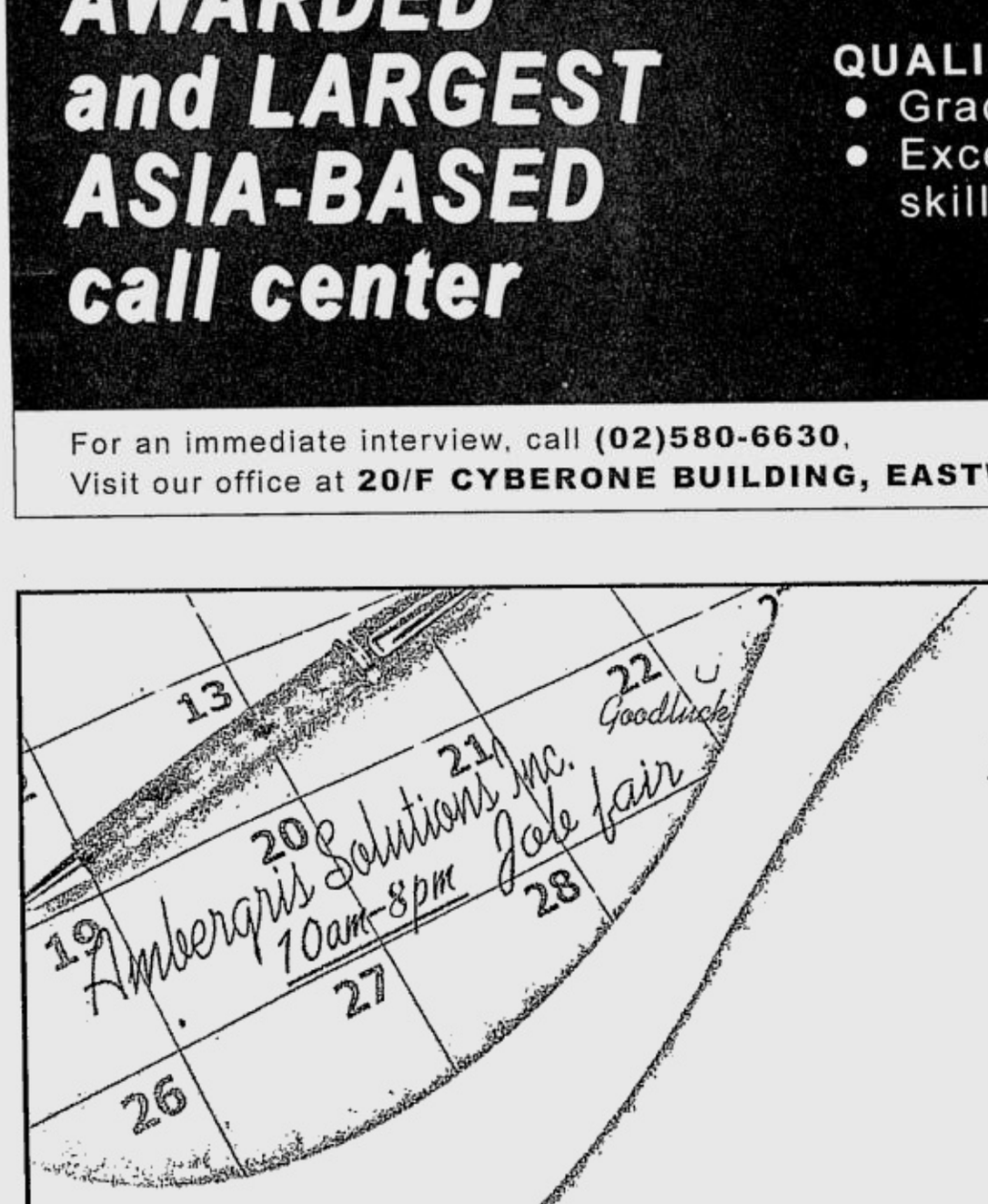
Visit our office at **20/F CYBERONE BUILDING, EASTWOOD CITY CYBER PARK, BAGUMBAYAN, QUEZON CITY**




# TECH SAWVY?

*Reward yourself this Christmas with a gratifying career that would make your New Year a fruitful year!*

*We are looking for Technical Support Representatives.*
Join us for another **recruitment frenzy** that will rustle up your career to much greater heights!

Catch the Recruitment Team from 10AM - 8PM at our following sites:

December 19 - 22, Sunday to Wednesday
31st Floor, Discovery Center, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
December 23, Thursday
5th Level, Market! Market!, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

*Mark your calendars today and start next year with a*

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Step 1: Walk-in and submit your application to us.
Step 2: Be interviewed and qualify for our various openings.
Step 3: Attend HR Orientation and bring home your signed contract.

QUALIFICATIONS
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JOBMarket

*ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.*

## Assistant Supervisor

- Male/Female at least 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden products
- Proficient in windows based programs
- Good inter-personal relationship
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive

## Forklift Operator

(urgent hiring)

- At least Vocational Course Graduates
- Male between 20-35 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With knowledge in forklift repair and maintenance
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

## Truck Head Driver

(urgent hiring)

- Male at least 30 up to 40 years of age
- High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With professional Driver's License (R Code - 6 & 3, 2,1)

## Forklift Mechanic

(urgent hiring)

- Male between 20-35 years old
- Must be an Auto-Diesel Mechanic graduate
- With experience in motor pool is an advantage
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character
- Fresh graduate are welcome to apply

## Electricians (urgent hiring)

- At least High School Vocational College Level
- Male must be 21-35 years old
- With experience in Building Control Wiring
- Good Moral Character

ANGLO JAPANESE AMERICAN AJA REGISTRARS

## SCAD Services(s) Pte., Ltd.

**PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY**
**BLOCK 23 PHASE 1V ROSARIO, CAVITE**

**You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address.**
**For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-0849 to 51. Look for Ronalyn Estorninos or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph**

## PEPSI-COLA PRODUCTS PHILIPPINES INC.

### Settlement and Credit Manager

Reports directly to the Finance Manager and is primarily responsible for contributing to corporate growth and profitability by providing leadership and management that is related to settlement and credit management.

The SCM end view is to effectively and efficiently carry out the settlement of daily transactions, manage utilization of credit as a tool to generate incremental sales, ensure timely collection of receivables, and provide Management with accurate, complete, and timely reports.

Other Key Performing tasks of the SCM include the safeguarding of company assets, effective execution of internal controls, maximizing utilization and administration of manpower and material resources under his jurisdiction.

Applicants should have:
- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting. CPA is a must. MBA units/degree an advantage.
- Male or Female, between 25-35 years old.
- At least three (3) years relevant experience in Credit and Collection on a managerial capacity, preferably from a multinational company. Exposure on beverage industry a definite advantage.
- Basic knowledge and exposure on Sales and Operations an advantage.
- Ability to handle and work with employees of different ranks; with good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Above average command of written and spoken English; good memo composition skills.
- Good computer skills with knowledge of MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Capable of working with minimum supervision and maintain composure under pressure.
- Willing to travel anywhere within Metro Manila and willing to work long hours.

### Sales Office Manager(s)

Responsible for contributing to corporate growth and profitability by providing leadership and management that is related to sales office operations.

The SOM's end view is to effectively and efficiently provide services to the Sales force in terms of product availability and other required resources by ensuring the achievement of its sales objectives.

Other Key Performing tasks of the SOM include the safeguarding of company assets, effective execution of internal controls, maximizing utilization and administration of manpower and material resources under his jurisdiction.

Applicants should have:
- A Bachelor's degree from a Business course. CPA/Accounting grad an advantage.
- Basic knowledge/experience in Warehousing, Inventory, and Fleet Management.
- Ability to handle and work with employees of different ranks; with good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Above average command of written and spoken English; good memo composition skills.
- Good computer skills with knowledge of MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Capable of working with minimum supervision and maintain composure under pressure.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere within Metro Manila and willing to work long hours.

### PD MANAGER

Preferably male
- Between 26 to 35 years old
- College graduate preferably in Engineering or any management related course -Must know how to drive -Can work long hours and willing to do field work -At least 5 years work experience in the field of Physical Distribution (Logistics, Warehouse, Fleet Operations) with 2years spent in supervisory/managerial capacity Competencies Required:
- Can do Project Feasibility Study
- Problem Solving and Decision Making Skills -Computer Literate -Good written and oral communication

Send applications to :

**PEPSI-COLA PRODUCTS PHILS., INC.**
Metro HR Department
Km. 29 National Rd.
Tunasan, Muntinlupa

carol.valenzuela@pcppi.com.ph / susie.balio@pcppi.com.ph

## INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION

The International Academy of Film and Television, Inc. (IAFT), the 1st private Film School in Southeast Asia, is currently looking for a qualified applicant to fill in the position of:

### TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The Technical Director is primarily responsible for technical planning, scheduling, coordination and management of the department which includes Systems Administration, Web Development and Creatives, Maintenance and General Services, and Production Equipment and Facilities.

**Job Specifications:**
- Must be an Engineering graduate
- Must possess knowledge in systems administration and web development
- Should have working knowledge of production equipment
- Must have the ability to lead and train a team, possess strong organizational and managerial skills
- Able to communicate through written and verbal media
- Able to practice and implement work standards

Applicants may send their résumé to:
**jobs@study-film.com**

For other job vacancies, visit us at:
**www.study-film.com**


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FREE ASSESSMENT

**Nurses Wanted Now!**
**NEW YORK**
*A Lifetime Opportunity!*
CGFNS or NCLEX passers
Register Immediately
If you are planning to take the CGFNS exam or NCLEX exam shortly, we will assist you with all requirements.
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E-mail nurses@whitegloverecare.com
Fax Resume 001-718-387-8359
Tel 001-718-387-8163

# BANKARD®

A YGC Member

**ARE YOU COMPETENT ENOUGH to fill in any of the following positions?**

**Direct Sales & Telemarketing Agency:**

- Ready to use database of prospective clients with experienced number of sales people
- Experienced in "Outbound Calls"
- With working offices and phone lines located in Metro Manila/Davao/Cebu/Iloilo & Cagayan de Oro (provincial applicants for Direct Sales only)

**Direct Sales Agent/Telemarketer:**

- College Graduate or College Level/Male or Female/21-35 years old
- Pleasing Personality
- Self-Driven
- Selling Experience

**For Qualified Metro Manila Applicants:**
Submit the required documents at the 30th Floor Robinsons Equitable Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

**For qualified provincial applicants:**
Submit the required documents c/o Jmalaluan@Bankard.com or Mlugay@Bankard.com.

**Required Documents:**
Direct Sales/Telemarketing Agencies:

- Business Registration
- Audited Financial Statement
- Articles of Incorporation
- Company Profile

Direct Sales Agents/Telemarketers:

- Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture
- Latest NBI Clearance

**Ensure HUGE profits for your company in Partnership with one of the country's pioneeer in the credit card business!**

BANKARD, a member of the largest business conglomerates in the Philippines, is looking for a reputable and dependable Direct SAles/Telemarketing Company and Self-driven AGENTS to join their dynamic sales force.

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There's nothing like it!

EEO/AA Employer

# A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

## Customer Service Representatives

West Contact Services, a subsidiary of U.S.-based West Corporation, is looking for dynamic, self-motivated and results-driven individuals to fill our 200 new positions.

**Excellent opportunity for part-time employment!**

### Qualifications:

- Excellent English communication skills, including good comprehension and ability to express yourself clearly in English
- Good customer service orientation
- Basic computer skills

### Why choose West?

- Competitive pay
- Choose your own schedule: flexible part- and full-time schedules
- Excellent advancement opportunities
- Fun Work Environment

**Apply online or in person!**
**www.westemployment.com**

## Apply Today!

**Closed Christmas Eve**
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West Contact Services Inc.
28/F Exportbank Plaza
Don Chino Roces cor Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati

Phone: 857-7400 • Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

A medium-sized commercial bank is in need of a dynamic, self-driven individual for the position of:

## UNIT HEAD-Institutional Banking Group

Applicants must be between 30 to 40 years old. The position will have a rank ranging from AVP to VP, depending on the qualifications, and will be responsible for:

- *Supervising a unit of two (2) Account Officers and one (1) Marketing Assistant;*
- *Managing and maximizing returns on existing loan porfolio of PhP1 billion;*
- *Expanding trade-related portfolio of the bank (LC's DA's export financing, etc.)*
- *Soliciting new accounts with acceptable credit rating that the bank can develop into long-term relationships;*

Qualified candidates may send their resumes together with a 2x2 photo to:

*Human Resources Management Division*
*Ortigas Center P.O. Box No. 13914*
*Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605*

**Location:** Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Processing Inc is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following senior site based positions;

## HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for site HR activities including recruitment and payroll administration.
- A degree in Human Resources or Business or similar qualification and good computer skills are preferred, together with several years experience in mining, construction or manufacturing industry, and good knowledge of labour laws.

## CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Responsible for site Accounting activities in accordance with appropriate and approved accounting policies and procedures, and
- Ensuring the integrity of financial computer systems and records, and providing financial reporting and advice to a wide range of parties including site managers, corporate offices (Manila and Australia), and external organisations.
- A degree in Accounting or similar, together with superior computing skills are essential, whilst several years experience in mining, construction or manufacturing is preferred.

## SUPPLY SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for Supply activities with the objective that quality goods and services are procured in a timely, safe and cost effective manner, including overseas goods, and
- Implementing effective inventory management, and continuously reviewing delivery and logistics arrangements to maximize procurement efficiency and to ensure compliance with legal requirements.
- Procurement, Business or a Mechanical background are necessary, with supervisory experience. High level computing skills and good knowledge of computerized purchasing and inventory systems are essential.

## SAFETY SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for establishing and maintaining safety policies and procedures, establishing standards and controls to identify and eliminate safety & health hazards, and assisting in the development of appropriate training related to safe working procedures and accident and incident investigations.
- Experience as a Safety practitioner at a senior level in an industrial workplace is necessary along with high level communication and computer skills.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing by 22 December, to:

**The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project**
**Suite 21, Legaspi Suites**
**178 Salcedo St.,**
**Makati City, Philippines 1229**

**Location:** Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Minerals Inc is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following site based positions;

## SENIOR SURVEYOR

- Reporting initially to the Chief Surveyor, responsible for safely leading the Mine Survey team, consisting of two mine surveyors, several survey assistants and clerks. This position will work closely with the mining contractor requiring communication skills to be excellent.
- Possess experience and skills required to implement survey control for conventional open pit mining techniques. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Producing accurate plans as requested in a timely manner.
- Responsible for developing systems and procedures for all activities undertaken by the Survey Department., including supervision and training Survey personnel. A high regard for safety is essential.
- Be degree qualified, and have sound experience with mining software.

## MINE SURVEYORS

- Reporting to the Senior Surveyor, responsible for undertaking the day to day survey tasks as required to operate the open pit mine.
- Experience in open pit mining although not necessary will be highly regarded. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Candidates must be physically fit and willing to work in a challenging environment.
- Must be team player and willing to learn as well as pass on knowledge to less experienced members of the team.
- Be degree qualified, and have had some exposure to mining software packages.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing by 22 December, to:

**The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project**
**Suite 21, Legaspi Suites**
**178 Salcedo St.,**
**Makati City, Philippines 1229**

# As Ford in the Philippines,

**WE** BELIEVE THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST STRENGTH.
**WE** value CUSTOMER SATISFACTION, SAFETY, QUALITY, TEAMWORK and INTEGRITY
and we are

## IN SEARCH FOR THE BEST PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE PASSION TO ACHIEVE GREATER HEIGHTS OF SUCCESS.

Inviting all Graduates of :

### Engineering and Technology
(Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial, Environmental & Safety, Chemical, Information Technology and Computer Science)

### Business Course
(Management, Communication Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Accountancy and Banking & Finance)

### Human Resources
(Psychology, Behavioural Science and Human Resource Management)

With the following qualifications:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Team player with excellent people skills
- High degree of computer literacy (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- High level of integrity, courage and commitment
- Leadership skills and willing to learn about our business and contribute to its success.

***If you believe you have the qualities, credentials and passion to join our global organization, kindly send your comprehensive resume to:***

**THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT**
**RECRUITMENT SECTION**
**FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILIPPINES, INC.**
**#1 American Road Greenfield Autopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna**

*"In Ford, we are not merely employees; we are partners in making Ford in the Philippines a leading consumer company of automotive products and services."*

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stride

**Globalstride is a premier outsourced customer service solutions provider. We provide the best in class CRM solutions to global companies at a lower cost through our offshore customer contact centers. Through a series of operational and technology partnerships with leading companies worldwide, GLOBALSTRIDE is uniquely positioned to handle customer service needs for a full range of contact channels, technologies, and languages.**

## CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALISTS

*Job Responsibilities:*
- Offer product & services through the telephone & other specified means of communication to a target list of customers in behalf of the product/services being offered.
- Provide necessary information about the product & services.
- Document all pertinent customer data using client prescribed form
- Meet the productivity requirements of clients on qualified calls.

*Job Requirements:*
- Bachelor's degree holders of any 4-year course with excellent interpersonal and communication skills particularly using American grammar, diction, intonation, inflection, intonation and articulation.
- Previous experience in customer relation, management, sales or marketing is an advantage.
- Ability to speak any foreign language (Spanish, Chinese, French, etc.) is a plus.

## PROGRAM MANAGERS

*Job Responsibilities:*
- Responsible in planning, implementing and directing business proposals and initiatives of the company

*Job Requirements:*
- Must have extensive experience in project and client management acquired in customer service or telesales.
- With at least 2 to 3 years of managerial or supervisory experience in project/account management and must have established analytical ability, good interpersonal skills and exceptional verbal and written communication
- MBA degree from AIM/ADMU/UP is an advantage.
- Preferably 25-35 years of age with acquired experience in telesales management

## CREDIT AND COLLECTIONS OFFICER

*Job Responsibilities:*
- Maintain Accounts Receivable, general and subsidiary records
- Prepare aging and other analyses for management
- Establish and maintain credit evaluation system
- Ensure adherence to credit and collection policies
- Prepare and transmit Statement of Accounts to clients and coordinate with internal Client Services for follow-up

*Job Requirements:*
- Accounting or Business Graduate
- At least 5 years experience, last 2 in supervisory capacity, in credit and collection, internal or external audit
- Expected to be detail-oriented and pro-active with above average communication skills (written and oral)
- Experience in both manual and automated financial systems is a plus

## SENIOR/SALES TRAINERS

*Job Responsibilities:*
- Design and conduct training programs on Sales and Customer Service and facilitate sales coaching sessions.
- Conduct regular on-floor Sales and Customer Service audit or call monitoring sessions with QA to capture lapses in sales techniques, pitch, as well as inculcate sales & customer service mindset/orientation.
- Train Trainers, Coaches, and Team Leaders on Sales and Customer Service.
- Revisit/audit programs and agents' skills levels and develop appropriate interventions.

*Job Requirements:*
- Must be degree holders preferably related to Sales and Marketing or Communications and Languages disciplines
- Must have established track record in Sales or Customer Service training gained from at least 3 years working experience in a call center or in a service oriented environment
- Exceptional communication skills, developed service orientation, strong people skills and proficiency in conducting training needs assessments and measurements are requisites
- Passion for Sales and Customer Service training and established course design and facilitation skills
- Experienced in developing skills-build up strategies for individuals or groups; good coaching skills
- Must be team-player, self-starter, organized and analytic

## QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS

*Job Responsibilities:*
- Conduct process reviews and compliance audit based on specified key controls
- Analyze statistical data for service standards and process measurements for corrective actions
- Monitor calls to ensure conformity with customer requirements and coordinate with other departments to manage customer issues

*Job Requirements:*
- Candidates should be degree holders with excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Must have keen eye for detail, analytical and with strong inclination in dealing with processes
- Candidates should have good sense of judgment, systematic and team oriented.
- Good probing skills and QA mindset have an advantage

## INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST / SUPERVISOR

*Job Responsibilities:*
- Organize and ensure efficiency of internal and external communication systems

*Job Requirements:*
- Graduate of preferably any Behavioral Science, Organizational Communications and Advertising courses
- At least 2-years significant work-related experience in handling organizational communications preferably in a manufacturing set-up with well-developed communication skills, both oral and written
- Demonstrated capability in ensuring workplace harmony through effective management of internal and external communications, including community relations and newsletter writing
- Well-founded interpersonal skills and recognized ability to work with all levels of the organization.
- Willing to be part of a young, vibrant and schedule-shifting environment

**Please visit us at:**
**29th Floor IBM Plaza Building, Eastwood City, Cyberpark Libis, Quezon City.**
**You can also call or email us at jobs@globalstride.com or visit our website at www.globalstride.com Telephone No. 911-8866 / Fax. 911-8854**

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# OPEN HOUSE

## Recruitment

December 13 - 29, 2004 * 9am – 3pm
HAND IN YOUR RESUME PERSONALLY AND BE INTERVIEWED RIGHT AWAY!

**URGENT REQUIREMENTS**

## Customer Service Representatives

INBOUND and OUTBOUND

Must be willing to work in a CALL CENTER environment * Excellent ENGLISH communication skills * Willing to work on shifting schedules * Minimum educational attainment: 2nd Year College * 300 Full-Time positions available

## IT SALES REP.

College Graduate * Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Sales-Engineering/Technical/IT or equivalent * 25 Full-Time positions available

**MANAGERIAL POSITIONS**
CALL CENTER MANAGER
WORKFORCE ANALYST
MARKETING MANAGER

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS
C/C++ COBOL JAVA
ORACLE ASP.Net VB.Net
C# VISUAL FOXPRO PHP

**GENERAL POSITIONS**
Executive/Admin Assistant
Receptionist
General Clerk
Encoder

**ACCOUNTING**
Accounting Assistant
Accounts Analyst
Finance Staff

**1603 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, EMERALD AVE., ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY**
**TEL: (632) 631-3109/47**
**E-MAIL: btphils2004@pbonanza.com.ph**

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**www.go2canada.com**

**FREE ASSESSMENT**

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Our company has an immediate need of dynamic, highly individuals to fill the following positions:

## Accountant
- Female
- not more than 35 years old
- must be a Certified Public Accountant
- with at least 3 years relevant experience

## Bookkeeper
- Female
- Accounting graduate
- Must have two years experience in general accounting and bookkeeping
- Computer literate

## Office Coordinator
- Female
- Must be an Engineer, BS Chem or any related profession
- We welcome fresh graduates

Interested applicants are requested to apply in person and send their resumé with 2x2 photo at:

195 Andros St., Phase 4, Visa Verde Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal 1900 or Email: technichem@pacific.net.ph

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## CLINIC PHYSICIANS

A health benefits management company is in need of clinic physicians with the following qualifications

- Must have completed residency training preferably in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Pleasing personality

Interested physicians may send or apply with the following credentials detailed resume with 2x2 picture, certificate of residency training.

## NURSES

- Female, Registered Nurse, not less than 5'2" in height, not more than 28 years of age
- Has at least one (1) year experience in clinical or hospital work
- Possess a pleasing personality, with good communication & interpersonal skills
- Must be computer literate

Please address all applications to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM, INC.
Unit 305 3rd Level EDSA Central Pavilion, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 631-8501 local 7139 or 634-5714

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WE HAVE A NEED FOR:

## VEHICLE INSURANCE MARKETING COORDINATOR

Male or Female, not more than 35 years old

Apply in person with Bio-data and ID photo to:

MANTRADE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(NON-NISSAN SHOP)
2280 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City
Look for Mr. Tony Cosme
- Tel. No. 843-8011 loc. 251

## URGENTLY NEEDED

A financial institution is in need of highly dynamic individuals to fill-up the following positions for its 1st Quarter Expansion program for 2005

### AUDITORS/ACCOUNTING CLERK ACCOUNT SERVICE PERSONNEL

- Male/Female; 21-25 years old
- Accounting Graduate
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned in the following areas: Luzon-Metro Manila / Antipolo/Malolos / San Fernando, La Union / Sta. Cruz Laguna / Legaspi City / Masbate, Visayas-Raxas City / Iloilo City / Borongan / Catbalogan / Carcar.

### PROGRAMMER

- Male not more than 30 years old
- BS Computer Science Graduate
- At least two (2) years work experience as Programmer
- Knowledgeable in development of program Application using Windows & DOS based system
- Exposure in LAN set up programs & NT Server
- Willing to travel in different provinces

**GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Honest/Hardworking/People Oriented
- Excellent in oral and written Communication

Applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to (please indicate the position applied for & the area of preference)

Box No. KA-010-04 MT
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.
#636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila

## 5-STAR HOTEL TRAINING
(With Hotel Certification Upon Completion)

On-The-Job Training Courses For Various Areas in Hotel & Fine Dining Restaurant Operations:

- Front Office Operations (Front Desk / Bell Service)
- Food & Beverage Operations (Bar & Restaurant Operations)
- Housekeeping Operations (Rooms / Public Area)
- Laundry Operations
- Kitchen Operations
  - Banquet
  - Butchery
  - Coffee Shop Operations
  - Cold Section / Salads, etc.
  - Hot Section / Specialty Cooking
  - Hygiene & Sanitation
  - Inventory & Cost Control
  - Pastry Section
- Stewarding Operations (Utility)

Be Qualified to Work in International Hotels, Restaurants & Luxury Cruise Liners and, EARN US$$$!!!

ARCHER RESOURCES
Consultancy & Training Center
Unit 2902A, 29/F West Tektite Tower
Phil Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas, Pasig City, MM
Telefax: (632) 6872447
Training Coordinator: Ms. Geraldine Y. Argayoso

## BUILD A CAREER WITH US!

*Do you have what it takes to be in a highly competitive, sales-oriented environment? We are looking for ACHIEVERS to join our team as:*

### BRANCH HEADS
(Metro Manila, Bacolod, Batangas City, Cagayan De Oro, Davao, Lipa, Sta. Rosa, Tarlac )

Minimum of 5 years sales experience in a managerial capacity; Consistent in reaching sales targets
Branch banking experience preferred but not required; Client centered and values customer service
Self-driven and results oriented; Proven leadership capabilities

### MARKETING OFFICER (Binondo)

Minimum of 2 years proven track record in sales (in a supervisory capacity)
With significant and extensive experience in developing marketing plans
Must be Chinese-speaking; Client centered and values customer service
Highly assertive and can work with minimal supervision; Highly proficient in MS Office

### PRODUCT MANAGER

Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or Mass Communication
With at least 2 years experience in Product Marketing or Sales as a junior officer
Can conceptualize and implement marketing programs; Preferably with experience in handling the OFW market
Highly creative and proficient in MS Office; Excellent presentation skills
Excellent team player and can work with minimal supervision

### COLLECTIONS OFFICERS

Between 26-35 years old; At least 3 years experience in Collections gained from a credit card company (the last 2 years of which in a supervisory level)
Good leadership skills; analytical and is able to recognize or anticipate problems and recommend timely, cost-efficient solutions; Client-centered and values customer service
Equipped with excellent, persuasive negotiation skills
Performs well under pressure and is prepared to extend working hours when necessary

### ACCOUNT OFFICER (Mortgage Banking)

Between 25-29 years old; With at least one (1) year experience as account officer for housing loans
Previous experience in handling end-buyer financing for developers (an advantage)
Assertive and results-oriented; With excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
Proficient in MS Office

### COLLECTIONS ASSISTANTS

Between 22-27 years old; Graduate of any business course
Preferably with at least 6 months collections experience gained from a credit card company
Can work with minimum supervision and prepared to extend working hours when necessary
Resourceful and is able to prioritize tasks; Excellent communication and negotiation skills
Proficient in MS Office

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUME WITH 2" X 2" COLORED ID PICTURE TO:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP
Recruitment Department
PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeño St., Makati City
Email: recruitment@psbank.com.ph
(use APPLICATION <position desired> as subject line)
Deadline for submission is Friday, 31 December 2004

*Previous applicants need not apply.*

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

## SANGRETECH ASIA BIOMEDICAL CORPORATION

A corporation based at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center Muntinlupa City is in need of the following:

# PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE I/II

**Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Biology/Life Sciences or equivalent with 1 to 3 years of related experience
- Experience with lab equipment, mammalian cell culture, sterile techniques, computers and intermediate mathematical skills.
- Ability to assemble, disassemble, operate and understand complex equipment per standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Ability to understand, apply, and evaluate basic chemistry, biology and physical principles as appropriate for the position.
- Skill in handling multiple responsibilities, tasks and projects simultaneously including ability to shift priorities.
- Excellent communication skills and a good command of the English language.
- Ability and motivation to learn and perform new techniques in cellular and molecular biology according to SOP
- Experience in flow cytometry is desirable

**Job Descriptions:**

Under general supervision, employees will perform:

- Manufacturing processes according to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Specific hands on operation responsibilities include:
  - operating new complex critical processing equipment
  - immunology and cell culture procedures
  - preparing manufacturing batch records
  - preparing required materials
  - setting-up, cleaning and sanitizing production area
  - other procedures as assigned
- Quality control (QC) procedures according to SOPs. Specific responsibilities include:
  - performing QC assays which include flow cytometry, microscopy, and other assays as needed
  - producing assay reports
  - monitoring critical processes
  - executing routine validation protocols
  - other procedures as assigned
- General administrative duties as assigned

**Qualified applicants may be posted abroad.**

Interested applicants are requested to mail their bio-data with latest photo and transcript of records to:

**Sangretech Asia Biomedical Corporation**
c/o Laurel Law Offices
15th Floor, JMT Corporate Condominium
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

## IPSEN
Innovation for patient care

IPSEN, one of the top 5 healthcare companies in France and a leading research & development group in the fields of oncology, endocrinology and neuromuscular disorders, is in need of the best applicants to pursue a challenging and rewarding career within its Transcontinental Asia Operations as

### REGIONAL MEDICAL AFFAIRS MANAGER
(Reporting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Reporting to the Medico-Marketing Manager for Transcontinental Asia, and functionally to the Medical Department in Paris, France, the successful candidate shall be tasked with identifying, evaluating and training investigators and study staff, preparing and reviewing informed consent documents and regulatory files; tracking and reporting study site progress and assisting in negotiating and managing clinical study budgets. Besides managing investigative sites, he/she must monitor clinical studies, identify and clarify deficiencies as well as review and resolve discrepancies in clinical data. Other responsibilities include pharmacovigilance management, medical validation of Asia marketing tools, medical training of Ipsen employees and partners and networking of key opinion leaders. Our requirements are as follows:

- Medical Doctor, Philippine board certified
- Specialization in pharmacology or any of the key Ipsen specialties, an advantage but not a requirement
- Good problem solving abilities and experience in undertaking clinical research and medical writing, a big plus
- Excellent English communications skills, both written and verbal
- Willing to travel extensively
- Adept in MS office particularly Excel, PowerPoint, Word and Outlook

Remuneration package will depend on qualification and working experience Interested candidates are invited to apply by sending a detailed resume including expected salary, contact telephone number and a non-returnable passport-size photograph before 28th December 2004 to the following address:

**The Country Manager**
**IPSEN Philippine Operations**
Suite 24.04, One San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Telephone: (+63 2) 687 65 75
email: odarvin@compass.com.ph

visit our website at: www.ipsen.com

## IPSEN
Innovation for patient care

IPSEN, one of the top 5 healthcare companies in France and a leading research & development group in the fields of oncology, endocrinology and neuromuscular disorders, is in need of only the best applicants to pursue a challenging and rewarding career within its newly established Philippine Operations. We have urgent requirements for the following positions:

### P.A. to the Country Manager
### Biotech Specialty Representatives

- Male/female, no more than 36 years of age
- Highly attractive with pleasant yet assertive personality and strong entrepreneurial spirit
- Passionate, dedicated, trustworthy team players and leaders who are determined to advance quickly in their respective careers
- Graduate of a 4-yr. college course or equivalent, preferably in marketing, management or a healthcare science course
- High critical and analytical skills with a strong grasp of details
- Exceptional planning and organizing skills
- Excellent English communications skills, both written and verbal with knowledge of Chinese, Cebuano or French, an advantage
- Above average to advanced computer skills (MS Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook)
- No plans of migrating within the next 5 years
- Experience in the pharmaceutical industry, especially with small to medium-size companies may be an advantage, but not necessary

Successful applicants can look forward to a challenging work experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including an attractive compensation, incentive and benefit package that includes regular travel abroad and around the country, with the opportunity to be part of the team that is pioneering the IPSEN business in the Philippines. Interested parties should come in business attire with their comprehensive resumes and 2x2 colored photographs between 1:30pm to 4:30 pm on Monday, 20 December or Tuesday, 21 December, 2004.

**IPSEN Philippine Operations**
Suite 24.04, One San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Telephone: (+63 2) 687 65 75
email: odarvin@compass.com.ph

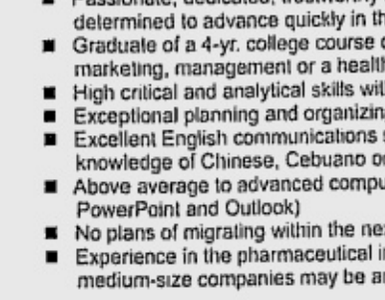
visit our website at: www.ipsen.com

## LICENSED NURSE/PHYSICIAN

Female, of good moral character, physically fit, intelligent, no children, willing to take psychological and medical evaluations with polygraph tests, interested in pursuing graduate studies.

Text or call **0917-9421263** or **0916-2358767** for further details.

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: INQUIRER



JOBMarket
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

## Ayala Property Management Corporation

*invites*
**young, dynamic and innovative professionals**
for the following positions:

### SENIOR BUILDING ENGINEER (Code: SBE)
- Licensed ME/EE/CE
- With 3 years hands on experience in building/facilities management, preventive maintenance or its equivalent
- Must be able to handle/supervise people

### JR. FACILITIES/BUILDING ENGINEERS (Code: BE)
- Licensed ME/EE/CE
- With at least 1 year experience in any technical-related field
- Those with experience in building/facilities management will be given preference
- Computer literate

### JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT (Code: JOA)
- CPA
- With at least 6 months experience in general accounting
- Knowledge in SAP a definite advantage

### PROJECT ENGINEERS (Code: TSG-PE)
- Licensed ME
- With at least 1 year exposure in construction/project management
- Those with experience in Testing & Commissioning of building equipment will have definite advantage

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Code: AA)
- Graduate of BS Accounting or Business Administration
- With at least 1 year related experience in office works
- Proficient in computer applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

*All applicants must also meet the following qualifications:*

✓ have above average communication skills (oral and written)
✓ can deliver efficient customer service
✓ willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested applicants can mail their comprehensive resumé together with a copy of the Transcript of Records, 2x2 picture and contact numbers to:

*Position Code:*
*5/F Glorietta 4*
*Ayala Center, Makati City*

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- ✓ *Knowledgeable in accounting principles, practices and financial reporting*
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- ✓ *Proficiency in related computer applicationsPreferably with office administration experience*

Candidates must be between 21 to 35 years old, with good interpersonal skills, and able to work efficiently under pressure.

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**CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK, INC.**
Human Resources Development Department
Citystate Centre Building
709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Tel. No. 636-3333 / 637-9843

Or email to : **hrd@citystatesavings.com**

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Ace Promotion and Marketing Corporation
#144 Pinatubo Bldg., Pinatubo St., Mandaluyong City

Email address: brian_arcilla@acepromotion.com.ph

***Cebu Office:***
AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER
Ace Promotion and Marketing Corporation
#6 Franco Warehouse Hiway Seno,
Mandaue City Cebu

Email address: acecebu@pldtdsl.net

***Davao Office:***
AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER
Ace Promotion and Marketing Corporation
Km. 9 Bo. Pamapanga, Hizon Bldg., Davao

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### HRD / Personnel Manager
- Minimum 5 years experience as HR Supervisor / Manager
- Graduate of B.S. Psychology is preferred
- Should be well versed / knowledgeable in labor laws
- Knowledge in various employees development programs is an advantage
- Female, 30 years old or above

Interested applicants can visit us with resumé at Unit 1A Vicencio Condo., #284 Sto. Rosario St., Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City. Tel No. 531-1343, Telefax No 531-1206.

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- Preferably BS Marketing, Business Administration or Mass Communication graduates.
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- Male, with experience in hotel night income auditing and management reporting; and well versed in Fidelio System.
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- BSBA Accounting Major is an advantage or its equivalent in experience.

### *COST CLERK*
- Male, at least 24-30 years old, with experience in food and beverage costing, receiving and storekeeping procedures.
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Applicants are requested to send their resumé with 2"x2" photo at Pearl Garden Hotel HR/ Personnel Dept., #1700 M. Adriatico St., corner General Malvar St., Malate, Metro Manila.

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## HR CLERK

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- Not more than 28 years old;
- With at least 1 year relevant experience in Recruitment and Training.

## ACCOUNTING CLERKS/ BOOKKEEPERS

- Male/Female; Graduate of B.S. Accountancy;
- Not more than 30 years old; Civil Service Eligible;
- With or without relevant experience.
- Applicants must be from the following regions/provinces: NCR / (Region I): Batanes, Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Region, Quirino / (Region II): Cagayan Valley, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya / (Region III): Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac / (CAR): Baguio, Benguet, Abra, Mt. Province, Kalinga, and Apayao.

## GENERAL CLERKS

- Male/Female; Not more than 28 years old;
- Graduate of any Business Course; With or without relevant experience.

Interested applicants may visit our office at the 9th floor, Century Tower, 100 Tordesillas cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or may call **Valerie** or **Maricel** at **(02) 753-1625**. E-mail: **lbpsc@globelines.com.ph**

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THE WORLD BANK
**Requires A**
**Social Development and Operations Officer**

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) seeks a candidate with strong operational experience in social development, community-driven development (CDD), post-conflict work, and capacity building. The position will be an **Extended Term Consultant (ETC) appointment** for one year renewable for a second year based on satisfactory performance and on the mutual agreement of the Bank and the Consultant. It will be subject to local recruitment and offers an opportunity to work on development challenges facing the Philippines in a global development organization. Based in Manila, the selected candidate is expected to travel frequently within the country.
The successful candidate will work in the World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) under the technical guidance of the Social Development and Mindanao Teams and will report directly to the Social Sector Coordinator, Environment and Social Development Unit, WBOM.

**Scope of Work**
He/She will have the following major duties and responsibilities:
1. **Project Development and Implementation.** Participate in cross-sectoral task teams to design, document, supervise and evaluate projects with social dimensions of development and community-driven development, especially in Mindanao; assist task teams in identifying and working with appropriate government and civil society partners for project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Participate in supervision missions, mid-term reviews, and project completion missions.
2. **Post Conflict.** Work with the Social Development and Mindanao Teams to guide and advise the project and other stakeholders at the various levels to clarify sound institutional arrangements for peace and development work in Mindanao, and help design, mobilize and facilitate capacity building programs, including conflict management and conflict-resolution, for Mindanao-based and focused institutions.
3. **Local Government Support and Capacity Building.** Help to operationalize the focus on the local platform by looking for opportunities and designing programs/developing ways within existing and future CDD projects to increase the capacity of LGUs to take the lead in planning and implementing local projects using CDD approaches of participation, empowerment and good governance.
4. **Support Analytical and Policy Work.** Provide analytical support to teams working on harmonization of country systems, simplification of procedures on social safeguard policies; harmonization of CDD approaches across Bank-funded projects; and other analytical work undertaken by the Social Development Team.
5. **Other Tasks.** Assist in other tasks as assigned by the Social Sector Coordinator in various thematic areas, such as social safeguards, responsive and accountable public institutions, social protection, etc. Participate in meetings, workshops and other tasks as assigned.

**Selection Criteria**
- Master's degree or higher in anthropology, sociology, development economics, social welfare or other relevant social sciences.
- Strong operational background with at least 10 years of relevant professional experience in designing and implementing CDD projects.
- Strong work experience in post-conflict and conflict management programs, especially in Mindanao.
- Experience working with LGUs, especially on capacity building programs, is highly desirable.
- Effective oral and written communication skills in English and Tagalog, and proficient computer skills.
- Good interpersonal skills and demonstrated capacity to work effectively in teams
- Willing to travel frequently to and stay for extended periods of time (3 to 4 weeks) in remote rural areas.

The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on the local market and attractive medical plan. Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than **Jan. 2, 2005** to :**KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc.**, c/o Ruby Barcelona at 22/F 139 Corporate Centre, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or email to rubib@ksearchasia.com or fax to 893-6259

**Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.**

KSEARCH

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IDS Logistics — A Member of the LI & Fung Group

**IDS LOGISTICS (PHILIPPINES), INC.**

IDS Logistics (Philippines), Inc. is a member of the LI & Fung Group, the premier Pan-Asian provider of supply chain services specializing in manufacturing, logistics and marketing.

As a leading provider of third-party logistics services across Asia and in the Philippines, IDS Logistics operates an extensive network of Distribution Centers, Customer Service Centers and Depots in major locations across the country.

We pride ourselves in having a diverse team of committed, multi-skilled and experienced staff who share a passion for excellence in providing logistics services to customers. We are continuing to build and grow our partnerships with clients, most of them leading multinational companies in their respective sectors. As such, there is a need to recruit new members to join our team and to grow with us.

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## WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS MANAGER

Assumes responsibility for directing the over-all operations of a Distribution Center for fast-moving consumer goods, with high levels of volume for daily inbound and outbound transactions.

- University degree in Engineering, preferably Industrial or Mechanical.
- 3 years managerial experience gained from manufacturing or distribution sector, in the fast-moving consumer goods or automotive industry.
- Excellent track record in logistics and operations management.
- Adept in modern business solutions and systems, particularly in warehouse operations & inventory management.

## TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

Will oversee the operations of the Transportation Management Group and will be responsible for the growth of this business unit.

- University degree in Engineering or other related course.
- 3 years managerial experience in a freight management-related role.
- Adept with transportation management systems.

*Interested parties who meet the above qualifications are requested to submit their comprehensive resume to:*

Human Resource Department
IDS Logistics (Philippines) Inc.
No. 29 Industria Street, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Email : logistics_recruitment@idsgroup.com Fax Nos : 687-3630

**ONLY CANDIDATES WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW.**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS IS ON JANUARY 3, 2005.**

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Send your resumé instantly.

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

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## Sales Executive

- Graduate of Marketing or Business Management
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- Knowledge about cleaning chemicals and disinfectants is an advantage
- Computer Literate
- Must handle in establishing new accounts
- Hardworking, proactive attitude, and love challenges

## Custodial Technician/Supervisor

- At least College Level
- With 5 years work experience as Custodial Supervisor from a prestigious company or hotel
- Has knowledge on how to operate floor machines specifically the Auto Scrubber and Hi-Speed Floor Machines

Please send your Curriculum Vitae with photo to:
Human Resources
Dorgali St. Athena Pallace Classique
Anabu 2, 4103 Imus Cavite

Or e-mail to Mathia@pldivibe.com

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THE HERITAGE HOTEL
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THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA, is managed by the Singapore-based Millennium & Copthorne International Limited, ranked as Asia's largest hotel group. Its London-based subsidiary Millennium and Copthorne Hotels, plc has under its hotel division, a stable of 91 hotels in 17 countries.

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Job Description
- Reporting directly to the General Manager (GM) of GRAND PLAZA HOTEL CORPORATION, owning Company of The Heritage Hotel Manila.
- Handles all confidential matters of the GM.
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- Bachelor's degree holders of any 4-year course with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Previous experience in secretary work.
- Must be at least 25 years old with pleasant personality
- Must display self-motivation, initiative, leadership skill and able to do follow up.,
- Excellent planning and organizing skills.

Interested applicants are invited to send their resume complete with relevant particulars, current and expected salary, together with a recent passport-size photograph not later than Dec. 31, 2004 to the following address:

MR. YAM KIT SUNG
General Manager
Grand Plaza Hotel Corporation
10th Floor, The Heritage Hotel Manila
Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Ext.
Pasay City

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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

## FINANCE ASSOCIATE

Conservation International-Philippines (CIP) is a branch of an international NGO that exists for scientific, educational or charitable purposes. In the Philippines, CIP's strategy is to promote effective conservation action in the most valuable remaining terrestrial and marine ecosystems by working with key decisions makers at the national level and at the corridor level by demonstrating models of ecosystem conservation in key sites such as the Sierra Madre forests and the Palawan marine ecosystems. CIP is currently in need of a Finance Associate who will take care of the processing of financial transactions coming from the field offices and various sections from its national office.

**Responsibilities:**
1. Process request for payment and prepare disbursement vouchers and checks;
2. Preparation and submission of required reports to government agencies; i.e. BIR, SSS, Pagibig, Philhealth, DOLE;
3. Preparation of staff semi monthly payroll;
4. Petty cash fund custodianship and replenishment;
5. Assist CI staff in filing claims and requests for benefits from HMO and other government agencies;
6. Maintain an accurate and up-to-date accounting file records;
7. Assist the Accountant and Finance Manager in the preparation of donor reports, budgets, and review of accounting policies.

**Minimum Qualifications/Skills:**
- Female, not over 26 years old
- Bachelors degree major in Accounting or any related course
- At least one year work experience in general accounting
- Experience in NGO work
- Computer literate (Excel, Word 2000)
- Knowledge in Oracle financials would be an advantage
- Patient, hardworking, cooperative and honest
- Can work with minimum supervision

Interested applicants may submit their application with comprehensive resumé not later than December 29, 2004 to:

**The Finance and Admin Manager**
**Conservation International-Philippines**
**#5 South Lawin, Philam Homes, Quezon City**
**or email: aespiritu@conservation.org**

**Previous applicants need not apply**
**No phone call please. Only those short-listed will be notified**

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Interested Applicants may submit personally their comprehensive resume with recent picture to:

**PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**
5/F Pacific Corporate Center,
131 West Avenue, Quezon City

# Quiet and kind

**By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS**

The word "quietly" in today's Gospel verse focus arouses my curiosity. Why would Joseph decide "to divorce her quietly" when he found Mary to be pregnant? To save face—his and hers? Such a gentle, discreet soul!

It occurs to me that we, too, ordinary mortals in the workplace, get to practice such discretion when we employ face-saving tactics for the sake of maintaining goodwill at work. Some secretaries would be familiar with this. When the boss is under duress and cannot be as pleasant as usual, the secretary comes to the rescue, armed with explanations and excuses calculated to cover up his cranky mood and protect the feelings of would-be victims, especially subordinates.

Managers, too, use moderate face-saving measures on occasion. When a driver is too rigid to shake off bad driving habits, the manager—foreseeing that he could get into an accident that would cause the loss of his job if not his life—preempts it by simply offering him an open door and an honorable dismissal. "It's kinder to ask the driver to leave instead of firing him," this manager would say.

This is not to say that we ought to tell lies just to maintain a false sense of peace in the workplace. That would be downright silly, and could even result in bigger problems, but face-saving under the above circumstances could be one's expression of faith—faith in man's ability to improve himself, to change for the better, knowing that people are willing to see through his imperfections the superior man within. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

**Gospel. Matthew 1: 18-24**

*Joseph her husband ... decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."*

# Values and decisions

**By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD**

PAOLO, an engineer working for a construction firm, e-mailed me saying that as a "constant reader" of this column, he is "always reminded of the subtle calling to be of service to my fellowmen through the Gospel." While his work is "financially rewarding," he is not planning to "climb up higher the corporate ladder" but instead feels the need to listen to the "silent call of Jesus Christ." Paolo says he is now at a crossroad in his life and work. As I thank him for sharing with me his dilemma, my thoughts go to the many others in the same predicament.

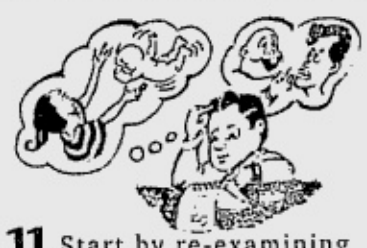
Our values—those which we hold very dearly in our life, and over which we are ready to lose everything we have—play a determining role in making very important decisions, particularly those, which can alter our direction in life and work. Those who consider money and whatever it can buy as of prime importance in their lives would choose a job that will give them the highest monetary compensation. Those who hold honor and prestige as priority would engineer their way to the top position in the company. Others who consider the family as the greatest treasure will select a work, which will enhance the growth of the family and not break it up.

Being aware of the values, and deciding or choosing a course of action based on the supreme value, is what brings us to true and genuine happiness in this life and after. Joseph, the husband of Mary and commonly known as a carpenter, shows us in today's Gospel that God is the Supreme Value and doing His will is the course of action which brings us peace of mind. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

# Are you a whiner at work?

From page 12

**10** Should you realize that you're one of these pests in the workplace, better shape up! Industrial experts offer a solution for self-improvement along this line: imagine your coworkers and superiors as potential in-laws. Project your best side as you do something to be in better control of your emotions.



**11** Start by re-examining your relationships with your family and the people close to you but outside of work. Level off with everyone.



**12** Re-examine, too, your most important relationship—with yourself and with your God. You'll know if it is as it should be, as you will have no reasons to be emotionally insecure. You will see the significance of your presence and role in the workplace and everything you do will reflect this.

# College undergrad seeks career ...

From page 12

trust of your boss in your capacity to perform in the higher position, etc. Perhaps, a college diploma can help, but there is more to a promotion than just that.

In fact, with the rapid changes in technology, knowledge and skills that we have learned today could be rendered obsolete or irrelevant in five years. Remember the time when, no sooner than you have mastered Wordstar and Lotus, you had to learn Word and Excel again just to be at par with others? In the very near future, we all have to keep updating our competencies every so often, at rates never experienced before. If you want to stay with the pack, you have to study and learn deliberately. If you want to be ahead, you have to do that very aggressively.

### Lifelong learning

In the new economy, competition is so severe that if you think you are not getting better, you are surely getting worse. There is no status quo—there is no standing still, because everybody who wants to succeed or lead must be one step ahead.

If you want to succeed in today's workplace, you must not only be content with a college diploma. No, I'm not saying that you should have a master's degree or a Ph.D. Many of the successful tycoons don't even have college diplomas, but they did not have to compete for promotion as supervisor.

Anybody who wants to succeed today must engage in "lifelong learning." That's the new buzzword nowadays that even the International Labor Organization (ILO) is pushing countries to adopt, if they want global competitiveness.

### Discipline

A strict regimen would probably include reading at least two hours a day on your area of specialization. Have a mind just like a sponge, always taking in new information from every conceivable source—newspapers, magazines, Internet, books, radio, TV, seminars, conferences, etc.

COLLEGE/P. 11

Looking for

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Requirements
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- Must be analytical, results oriented, creative and with good fashion sense
- Ability to multi task

Send your resume to
Instyle Apparel, Inc.
2F Tesoro Bldg., 1016 Arnaiz Ave. Makati 1223
Tel No. 843 2771

# The world of work according to Dana

By Dana MVC
*Contributor*

*(Starting this Sunday, we are publishing the diary of a young woman chronicling her journey through the world of work. For those who are still looking for work, this can serve as a glimpse of the challenging work world. For others already spinning on their heads in the corporate world, this may help you sort out your own reality. – PaW Ed )*

PASSIONS die in the end.

That's how sad pursuing passion really is. You feel you just can't easily have what you strive for. Or you simply don't know what you're looking for, you're out of focus or you're unaware of what your heart genuinely desires.

I went on several "journeys," enduring the depths of my weariness and frustration that almost took a heavy toll. In the end, I was surprised to find hope and discovered that real passion all along never did die.

Truly, even the ordinary life can be overwhelming.

**Chapter 1**

**Square One**

Eighteen years have passed since my ninth birthday and still my heart is overjoyed at the memory of how I played and laughed in our school playground. It's truly one of my most favorite, unforgettable places ever— sweetly cloistered from the rest of the world by its enchanting swings, *santan* flowers, unusual shrubs and the presence of other children to fight with every single day. I have forgotten most of my classmates' names and faces in the later years, but this playground image is one experience too carefree to forget. Such vibrancy is nothing compared to what I'm going through today... that is, to wish I am dead.

My name is Dana, 27, the youngest of three children, all women, living still with our parents in a typical boom town, a cosmopolitan place where cashless people can look rich and famous.

I keep a lot of books in the house. In fact, I started reading Christian Andersen and Grimms' fairy tale collections since I was six. I never stopped reading since then. One of my fondest habits was to keep scrapbooks and slumbooks. I knew this amused a lot of my friends. In those pages lie several of my funny, inconsistent testimonials—from wanting to become a scientist, to dreaming of becoming a doctor, FBI agent, British spy, fighter pilot, lawyer, engineer, professor, singer, nun, filmmaker, businesswoman, and... writer.

My preschool graduation has long been a blurry memory. Yet, I knew I received a plaque for Best in Math. A few years later, in high school, I flunked my chemistry and trigonometry tests. No big deal. I still graduated high school right on time.

Like several other low-middle income families, plush comforts and treats were usually short-lived. Steaks today were gone tomorrow. Signature shoes came once in three to five years. Change of uniforms, forget it.

It isn't surprising then that my parents wanted nothing more than for us to have a college degree and swiftly make money. But my mother fell in love with my older sister's secret to success—marrying a rich man. Everybody in the family seemed to have bought that cunning idea too, except for me. And that's where I have begun to fail them and began my difficult life ahead.

**Chapter 2**

**Nerves Street**

They say the most splendid location to start working in is at a central commercial district. I landed my very first job there and thought how lucky I was to easily meet the their high expectations.

Compared to my college mates who got their first jobs outside the city center, I was considered to be a socialite in progress. But compared to those who landed in big, media network corporations near the polluted thoroughfares, I was a shining failure.

Thus, I tried savoring the life I had at the city center. Every day, I sat next to a row of tellers and processed money transactions to customers every two minutes. I was one with the machine. Such was my big, initial "career" break after graduating from college with honors such as being in the dean's lists, scholarship renewals and popularity credits.

Being "one with the machine" at the big branch office didn't actually polish my work. Often, I would jumble a lot of computations with pesos, dollars, balances and what not. I never thought that the horridness of math, which I had long overcome, would come creeping to my senses again. Two long weeks of this repeated agony and I felt debased enough to keep me from seeing my friends.

I was among the anonymous uniformed army. One of the thousands who report day in and out of the office, surviving at the mercy of customers, senior colleagues and three superiors above me. I had to get out. This was not the success story I had in mind. What kept me at a constant, restless pressure was my ambition—something way, way far apart from this. I thought I shouldn't be wasting any more time.

Back home, my older sister, Pat, who got married to a foreigner, bought us a brand new TV set and fridge. My parents were thrilled. I was in my room, segregating the cash I had left to pay for our telephone bills. When my mother took the payment, she considered it as part of my filial duties. She did not have a tiny bit of a smile on her face. The money, after all, was just half of the total billed amount. It was what I could only afford.

The following day, the senior vice president of the bank went to my station and surprisingly offered to move me up to the executive floor to handle three jobs: operations staff, administrative assistant and executive secretary. It was a mere lateral movement to a staff position without any salary alignment, but I was utterly grateful.

My "yes" to his offer was like a speeding bullet. It was a miraculous solution that came to me as if I had wished for it, although I never did. My colleagues expressed fervent hopes of getting the same opportunity too. Then I realized I wasn't the only one tearing myself to pieces from receiving and paying out money like a broken record at the teller's counter. Boy, was I lucky to get out. For what reason he chose me is unimportant. I never bothered to ask him why. To me, he was an angel. And it would be years of tumultuous struggle before something like this genuine and unexpected moment of happiness at work would ever happen again.

*(To be continued next week)*

# College undergrad seeks career advancement

From page 10

The ILO has shared information on how other countries are building up knowledge and skills among its people in frenzied manner. We're not only talking of technical skills, but of soft skills as well—how to interact with others and how to work with teams. As you aspire to move higher in your organization, you will need more soft skills than ever before.

Lifelong learning seems to be the right strategy for global competitiveness—among nations, organizations and individuals.

If you are interested in a great career, cultivate the habit of reading. Here's a simple advice. Read a good book at least one hour per day about your field of specialization. This translates into one book per week or at least 50 books per year. In 10 years, that means you shall have read 500 books. In any language, that is enough protection against "vulnerability to social exclusion" due to ignorance in your chosen field.

**Self-development**

Thirst for knowledge—even beyond your area of specialization. Technical people today have realized that developing soft skills allows them to move up the organizational ladder faster. Read books and attend seminars about leadership, interpersonal relations, and other topics that will enhance your organizational savvy. Like it or not, the top people got to where they are now not because they are the best technically equipped in their field. They usually are those who are able to best lead and manage the people in that technical field.

Can seminars replace a college diploma? I understand that the Commission for Higher Education is developing mechanisms to review and credit certain nonformal learning experiences (properly substantiated and subjected to tests) as equivalent to formal education. But, with or without credit, I suggest that you never cease taking advantage of every learning experience, whether formal or informal, classroom or on-the-job, that comes your way. It could be your best bet that you will have greater employability—whether you move from one job, team, department, company, or career to another.

The moment you stop learning, you stop ...

**Quote of the week**

"Don't let schooling interfere with your education..." (Cecilia, How to Keep Your Job, 2000.)

*(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. He can be reached at* ec4u@edsamail .com .ph)

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- Contacts in different purchasing fields an advantage
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- Results and goal oriented.
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- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply!

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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# My Trabaho beneficiary overcomes interview trauma and lands a job

By Candy G. Villanueva
*Contributor*

SWEATING under the measuring eyes of a job interviewer is every applicant's nightmare. More so for Mark Morales. He would squirm under his prospective employer's steady gaze as he outlined his career plans for the next 10 years. Always, he would pray that he wouldn't be asked why he thought he deserved the position he was applying for. He felt he has yet to give a convincing answer. For Morales, the interview process was one of the biggest hurdles he had to overcome to obtain his dream job. Then, My Trabaho came along.

Mark Morales is one of the beneficiaries of My Trabaho, a public service program that aims to help jobseekers and people at work find their dream jobs. My Trabaho is a joint project of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Optimus Innovations and the Manila Broadcasting Company. My Trabaho recently saw the fruits of its labors when several beneficiaries landed jobs after its combined training, personality development and career coaching program. Morales is one of the fortunate beneficiaries who now works for Goodwill Bookstore as a clerk.

### Career mentoring

A fresh commerce graduate from San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Morales didn't exactly know where he was headed. "I wanted to explore myself and to achieve my dreams in life. I wanted to land a job that is suitable with my interest and knowledge,"

**My TRABAHO**

shares Morales. The problem was, he didn't know what field he was suited for. He scoured the classifieds anyway and applied to every opening related to his field. While rifling through the Job Market of the Philippine Daily Inquirer one day, he chanced upon the My Trabaho announcement.

The ad was hard to ignore. The benefits were even harder to resist. The program promised jobseekers like Morales a shot at their dream jobs through mentoring, training and a personality makeover. Morales sent his resumé without delay. From out of hundreds of applicants, Morales' resumé was drawn during My Trabaho's quarterly drawing of beneficiaries, together with 29 other resumés. The 30 who sent their resumés were sent to a two-day career planning workshop conducted by Career Systems, Inc.

From then on, everything fell into place. From the workshop, Morales felt his career path being laid out.

### Strengths

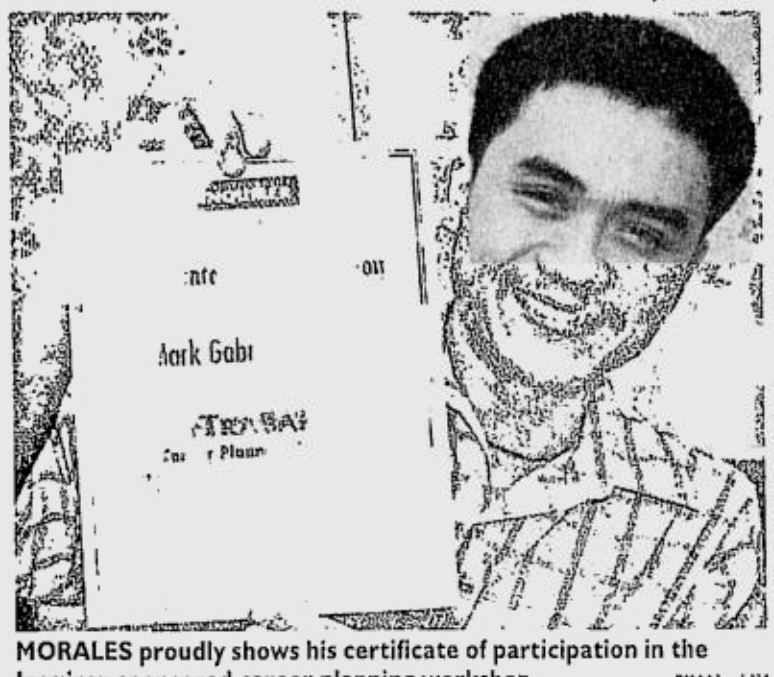
Morales' path was further carved out for him when he was chosen as one of the 10 to move on to receive career coaching from a career mentor. He was taken under the wing of Stella Sison, a consultant of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting.

With the help of his mentor, Morales discovered that there could be a career for him in the counseling or human resources department. "Although he is a commerce graduate, I felt that he was more cut out for counseling work," shares Sison. In several of their coaching sessions, Sison gleaned that Morales is kindhearted and spiritually grounded. According to Sison, these are the traits that are required of a counselor. Morales also mentioned on several occasions that people generally confide to him and it gives him a sense of fulfillment to be able to help people.

"My first impression of Mark was that he was very shy. I suggested that he could probably build his confidence by helping other people out and he seemed to like the idea." Sison advised that he might want to look into HR or administrative work or recruitment. Morales warmed up to the idea. "According to my counselor Ms Stella Sison, being a counselor like her suits my personality. That's why if given the opportunity, I want to be a counselor like her who guides people to be successful in life."

### Enthusiasm

Sison recalls, "Although Mark was very shy, it wasn't difficult to mentor him because he was eager and enthusiastic about the program. I could see that he really wanted to prove himself." She was very impressed with Morales' dedication and receptiveness. Although it wasn't that easy for him, considering his lack of resources, Morales never missed a single session and would always come on time.



MORALES proudly shows his certificate of participation in the Inquirer-sponsored career planning workshop. RYAN LIM

Tentative at first, he eventually overcame his shyness and started trusting his mentor more. In fact, after the first few encounters, he would communicate with Sison often to update her of his progress. "He would often text or call me after an interview," remembers Sison. "Eager for feedback, he would tell me about the things he forgot to do or the things he should have done."

In the short two-month interaction they had, Morales claims that he has learned a lot. "My counselor taught me a lot of things, which I believe would be beneficial for me throughout my life."

"As a fresh graduate, I lack self-confidence whenever I apply especially during interviews," recalls Morales. This setback was soon addressed through constant coaching from his mentor and coupled with a career management seminar series conducted by John Clements Consultants, Inc.

### Building basics

With the seminar, Morales and the rest of the beneficiaries were trained on resumé preparation, career advancement and how to clinch the job offer through the interview. According to Sison, these are the basics that every applicant should be armed with before setting out into the real world. These may seem common knowledge to most but surprisingly enough, not everyone, particularly the fresh graduates, are rightly equipped. "It's sad because there are many things that they (applicants) are unaware of. Had they known, they would have achieved better results," expresses Sison. "That's why I think career mentoring is very important. My Trabaho is a feel-good program that is very helpful to jobseekers."

### Right path

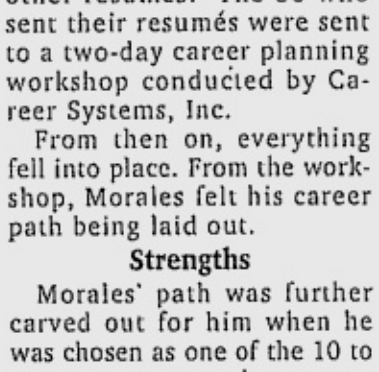
After learning the basics of how to apply for a job, the My Trabaho assistance was completed with a physical makeover. Morales and the other beneficiaries were treated to a corporate wardrobe update by Shoemart and hairstyle makeovers by David's Salon. Groomed and prepped inside and out, the beneficiaries set out for the job hunt with P5,000 each in their pockets for expenses like transportation and resumé preparation.

Morales immediately struck gold. He applied at Goodwill Bookstore through e-mail and was called in for an interview after only two days. Sooner than he hoped, he was on his way to the head office to process his employment papers. Presently, he works as a clerk and helps out in file management and request handling. It may be far from counseling or recruitment but it is close to administrative work and Morales feels he is off to a good start. He is grateful to My Trabaho for leading him to the right path. "I am encouraging those people of any age to join the My Trabaho program. I am pretty sure that it would be a complete guide for you in choosing your career and fulfilling your dreams in life."

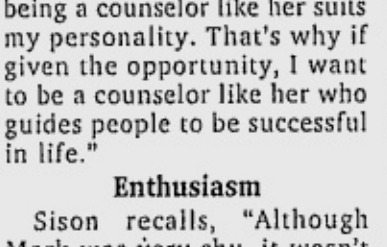
# Are you a whiner at work?

BEST Attitudes

ARE you a pet or a pest in the workplace? There seems to be always one pest, that is—in every workplace, one who wants a lion's share of attention. Short of bringing along her pet snake to work, his or her actions almost always say "Look at me! Listen to me! Think of me!" At first these pests (who are basically gripers) may be tolerable or even cute, but sooner or later they weary everyone with their little dramas. Recognize someone around? Or is it you? See if you're guilty of any of these:

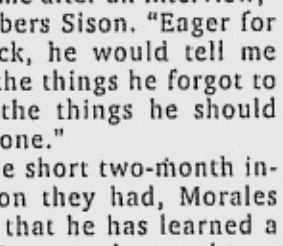


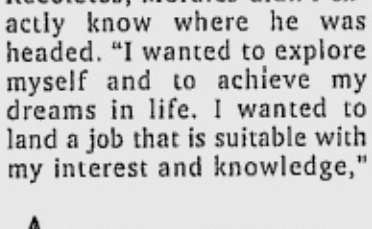
**1**



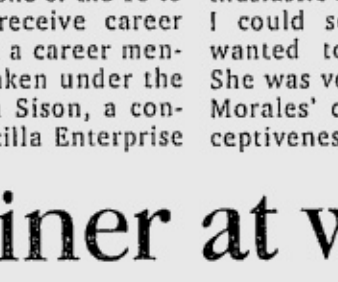
**2** Grumbling about how harsh life has been for him, how hard it is to make both ends meet with the meager pay he is receiving...

**3** Complaining about little things others hardly notice in their coworkers, like the smell of someone's perfume, etc...

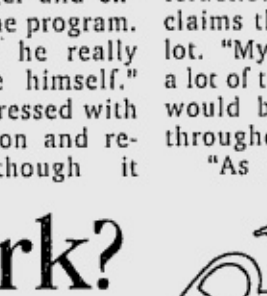




**4** Losing his cool at the drop of a hat, having a tantrum or losing his temper when things could be patched up quietly...

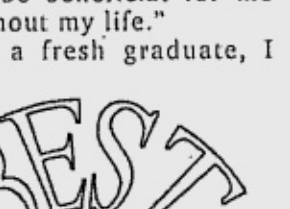


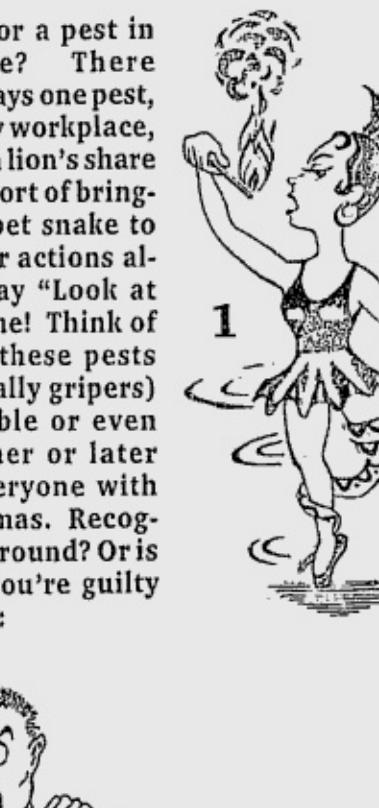
**5** Airing the details about family tragedies—her husband's womanizing, his children's sibling rivalries—that no one really cares that much about...



**6** Burdening everyone with problems he should be solving on his own, then making others feel guilty if they don't show sympathy...

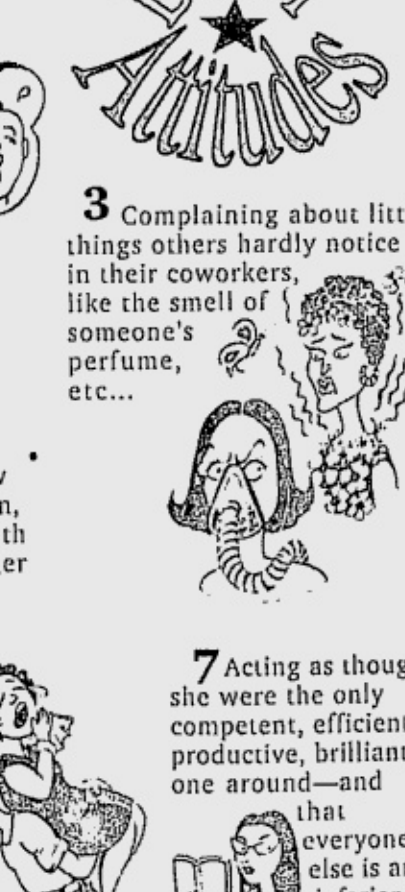
**7** Acting as though she were the only competent, efficient, productive, brilliant one around—and that everyone else is an inferior animal...





**8** They make you feel you're the most important person on earth (when they need to borrow money from you, for example) but ignore you altogether once their need of you is over. (They also forget to pay you back).

**9** Managers are not stupid—they can smell these emotional leeches in the workplace who over-emote as a way of covering up their poor work performance. Many people have lost their jobs for doing this because their little dramas are signs of emotional instability, and what company wants to be a haven for the emotionally flaky?



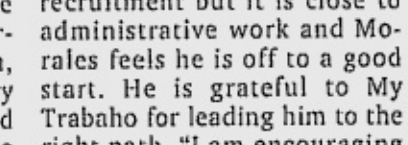
ARE YOU/P. 10

## *College undergrad seeks career advancement*

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

**I WAS in college on and off because my parents could not support my education. When I was in my third year in an Engineering course, I got lucky to land a job in the factory where I am now a foreman.**

**I have been bypassed in promotion for supervisor, mainly because I have no college diploma. Of course, I felt bad but had to accept my boss' decision to promote another foreman.**




**Can I enhance my chances of being promoted if I complete my studies and get a college diploma? In my 10 years with the company, I have attended several in-house seminars that helped improve my performance. Are these seminars not enough to substitute for my lack of college diploma?**

**The Undergraduate**

College education is usually required for supervisory or higher positions. Skills and competencies, not the diploma itself, are important determinants of successful performance in a job. But most companies have upgraded their qualification requirements because, anyway, there are millions of Filipino college graduates who are willing to take on shop floor jobs.

Have you clarified with your boss why you have been bypassed in promotion? Is your lack of college diploma the real reason? I suggest that you talk to your boss and get an understanding of his criteria for promotion to supervisory positions. Specifically ask if the college diploma is one of the requirements. If it is, and if you are willing, then make an agreement with your boss to allow you to complete your college studies. (Some companies provide financial support and shifting consideration for employees who are studying.)

### Other factors

While the college diploma can qualify you to be considered for promotion, it usually does not guarantee sure promotion. There are several other factors such as performance, potential, fit between you and the organization,

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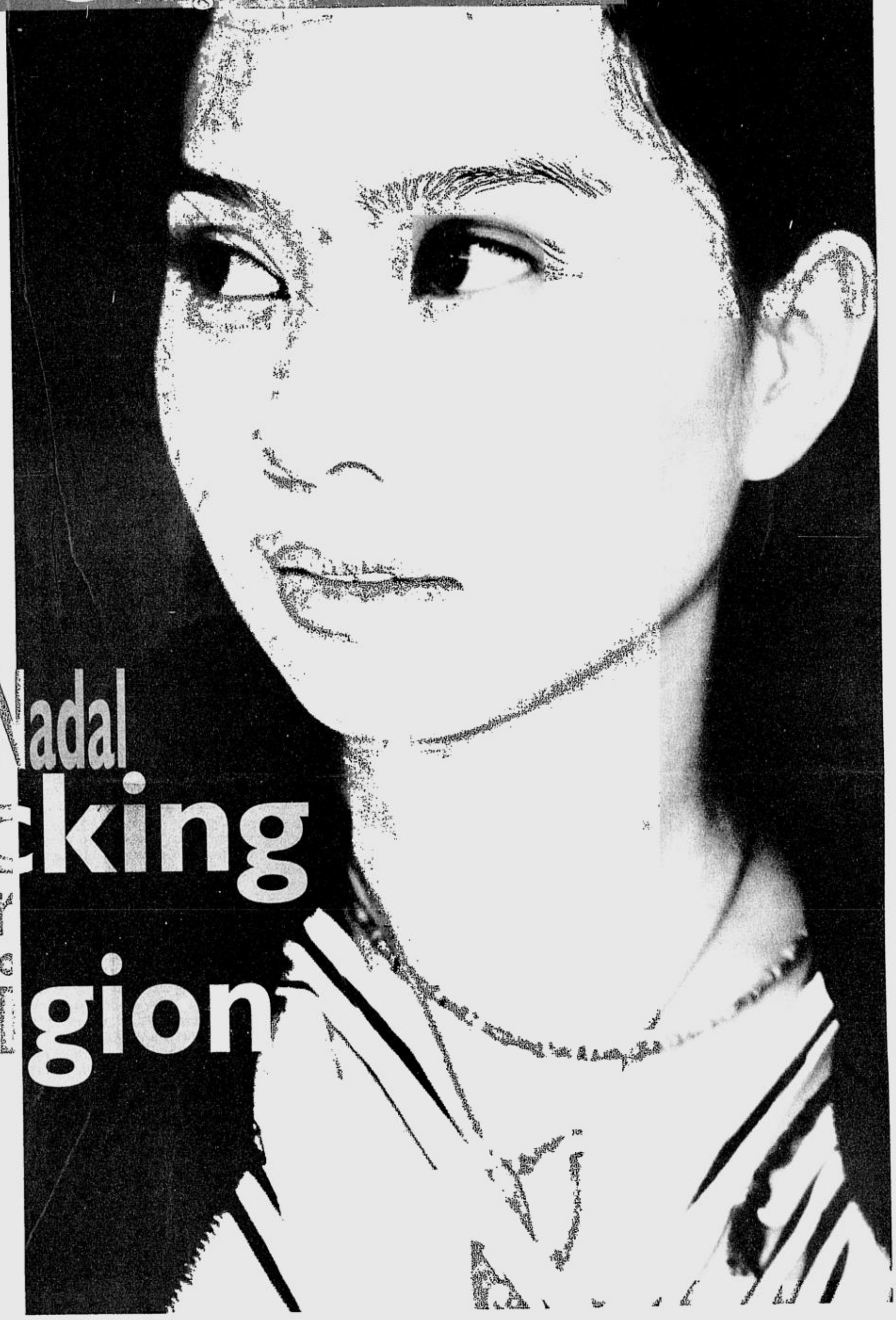
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
December 19, 2004



*After a first crack at musical stardom via the band Mojofly, followed by some much-needed soul-searching, the hot young singer is back with a gold solo album and a new sense of purpose—and fans are getting the message*

# Kitchie Nadal Rocking Religion

*By Eric S. Caruncho*
*Photographs by Iman Montalvan*

**H NO!" says Katrina "Kitchie" Nadal under her breath. "Here we go!" Up close, scrubbed free of stage makeup, the former lead singer of Mojofly and now solo recording artist looks surprisingly petite and even younger than her 24 years.**

Perhaps it's her outsize singing voice—a throaty, sensual alto that early on in her career earned her comparisons to such pop-rock divas as Jewel and Natalie Merchant—that gives her the illusion of being bigger onstage when she performs. Perhaps it's the casual yet confident way she handles a Fender Stratocaster when fronting her band. Or her fabulous cheekbones and dark almond eyes.

Offstage, however, she is surprisingly diffident and soft-spoken, specially when talking about herself and the things that are important to her.

These days, it's not so much the fact that her self-titled solo debut has gone gold after only two months. Or the fact that she's gone back to performing live after a long hiatus, much to the relief of fans who feared that she was giving up music altogether when she left Mojofly middle of last year.

No, these days what matters to her most is her spiritual life, but it's not something she likes to talk about, hence her case of nerves when we get around to talking about the "C" word.

Her reluctance is understandable, because it's hard to talk about Jesus without sounding preachy. It's especially hard if you're a rock musician. Christianity and rock have long made for an uneasy mixture. After all, they used to call it "the devil's music." This is borne out by the direness of most of the stuff that goes under the label "Christian rock," from Stryper down to Creed. Even Bob Dylan got laughed at when he declared for the Lord and released an album called "Saved." And musically, most of the stuff released under the rubric "praise music" is, to be frank, beyond the pale. To page 2

A Guard-ian Angel in Jail
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Hitting the Books for A Better Life
by Ruel S. De Vera, f

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by Maria Congee S. Gomez, f

# Kitchie ...from page 1

Keeping it pure: Everything just "fell into place" for Kitchie's "comeback"

Thankfully, the music on Kitchie's new album seems to be none of the above. At their core, the songs such as *"'Wag na 'Wag Mong Sasabihin"* and *"Bulong"* seem to have evolved organically from Kitchie's own introspection.

Sonically, they're powered by the good old rock engine of guitar-drums-bass. They reaffirm the truism that, no matter how well-intentioned, music can't be uplifting unless it's good.

"With Mojofly, most of the songs were written by Mojofly founder Ricci Gurango, so it was like theater for me when I performed," she explains. "I was interpreting his songs. The difference now is that I write the songs, they come from me, so I can't fake it anymore. Maybe that's why the audience can feel it more. They get drawn in by the honesty, the truthfulness."

## At her core

Her candor goes hand-in-hand with her newfound spirituality. Though she doesn't want to make a big deal out of it, it is clearly a big deal for her.

"I'm a Christian who happens to be a musician," is about as straightforward as she can put it. "It's the core of everything I do."

About two years ago, Kitchie joined the Victory Christian Fellowship, an evangelical Christian community, after a period of soul-searching. It wasn't a bolt-of-lightning, Paul-at-Tarsus kind of conversion; more like a gradual clearing away of the shadows and fog that had hung over her young life, to the point where she could now say that her world revolves around her spiritual life.

In hindsight, the equation of music and spirituality might have deeper roots than is apparent. There was always music around the Nadal household when Kitchie was growing up, since her mother Marjorie was a classical pianist. But Kitchie's first experience with the power of music came when she was in grade school. Her grandmother would take her along to choir practice at the Sacred Heart Church.

"I was the only kid," she recalls. "The other choir members were all *lolos* and *lolas*, and I remember feeling sad when one of the choir members would die. It happened quite a lot. Anyway, I'd go with her and learn the songs."

It was a full-fledged choir, with tenors, altos and sopranos, and intricate choral arrangements, recalls Kitchie.

"I can't explain it, but singing for me was really pleasurable," she says. "It was really pure."

The experience of singing for the pure joy of singing stayed with her for a long time.

"There was a time with Mojofly when, with all the pressure and the perks that come with being in a successful band, you forget why you're doing it, you forget what music is all about. But when I remember that time in my life when I was a kid, when it was just pure love for the music, I get encouraged. When I remember that time, I think to myself, 'I'm meant to do this.'"

It wasn't until she was in her first year of college at De La Salle University, however, that Kitchie had the opportunity to sing again.

"I was bored," she recalls of her freshman year. "I was bored to death, and a friend told me, 'This band is looking for a singer. Why don't you audition for them?'"

The thought had never occurred to Kitchie. Although she liked listening to rock on the radio and bought CDs of the bands that she liked, she wasn't really into the local music scene. She hadn't even gone to a single concert, let alone followed the band scene. Joining a band was the farthest thing from her mind.

"I had never auditioned for anything before," she recalls. "I was scared of auditions. I'm not a competitive person."

Somehow, she found herself auditioning for this band, the Hungry Young Poets. The HYP, as they were sometimes known, had gotten a toehold in the music industry. They were one of dozens of bands signed by the major labels in the "alternative music" gold rush that followed the platinum success of the Eraserheads in the mid-1990s. The Poets already had an album out on Sony, and it seemed like they were going places when their lead singer, Barbie Almalbis, suddenly left to form her own band, Barbie's Cradle. The band was shopping around for a new singer, and thus it came to pass that Kitchie found herself trying out for the position.

## Shot out of a cannon

The next thing she knew, Kitchie was the lead singer for the Hungry Young Poets, now renamed Mojofly, and they had a hit single on the radio. The feeling was not unlike being shot out of a cannon.

"I was very immature when I joined the band," she recalls. "I didn't know that recording artists have a certain lifestyle, and that a big part of that lifestyle involved playing regular gigs. I thought all I had to do was write songs, *kaya siguro ang lakas ng loob ko*. I didn't know that it would consume a big part of my life."

The reality of being in a band, even a relatively successful one like Mojofly, was that you had to play live in order to survive. Royalties from record sales are only a miniscule amount, especially after the record label makes up for what they spent on recording, promotions, etc.

Luckily, with Kitchie up front, Mojofly became even more popular than the HYP were. Not only did she possess phenomenal pipes, she wasn't half bad to look at onstage either. And if there's one thing the Pinoy audience is a sucker for, it's for a babe who can carry a tune.

"Music for me was a hobby," she says. "All of a sudden, I realized that I was with a record company, and that now I have to take this seriously. There was a lot of pressure, and I had to adjust."

## Newfound fame

Kitchie also had to adjust to her newfound fame. The lead singer is the focal point for any band; she's the one the audience is always looking at, and she gets the most attention from fans. Kitchie got more than most: Not only did she draw the impressionable young girls who identified with the confessional, emotional tone of the songs, she also attracted a legion of male fans, as much with her nubile charms as with the music.

But the hectic performing schedule, and the constant stress and fatigue of the working band's nightly grind began to take their toll.

At the height of the band's popularity, Kitchie had to take a leave of absence from her school. She was simply too tired to make it to class after staying up all night at a club gig.

For a while, she coasted on Mojofly's success. The band was a perennial concert draw, and a second album soon followed.

"It was fun while it lasted," she recalls of her Mojofly days. "But eventually, I just couldn't take the pressure. I decided 'OK, it's time to grow, it's time to move on."

Early last year, she went back to school and turned in her notice to the band. (Kitchie is now majoring in Psychology at DLSU, and is even considering a second major in education.)

But there was another, deeper dimension to her discontent. In the midst of her apparent success with Mojofly, Kitchie was undergoing an existential crisis.

"When I think about my life before, it was just one big blur," she says. "I can't remember anything."

Well, a lot of musicians feel that way all the time, but usually it's the result of too much alcohol, or drugs. They just assume they had a really good time last night, and move on. But Kitchie's state of confusion was spiritual, not chemical.

"There was no order at all, no absolute thing to hold on to, everything was relative," she recalls. "No matter how bad something was, there was always a way to justify it. You heard a lot of theories and a lot of philosophies, and it got really confusing. *Nakakasira ng ulo*. After a while, I hit rock bottom."

There was a gaping hole in her life, and nothing could fill it: not success, not fame, not even music.

Strangely enough, she didn't have to look far for the answer. Help came in the form of a friend, Barbie Almalbis, the singer she had replaced in the Hungry Young Poets.

"We were friends," says Kitchie. "We knew each other from the music scene, and we have almost the same background."

Barbie introduced Kitchie to her church, the Victory Christian Fellowship, and although Kitchie wasn't particularly religious, she gave it a shot. Gradually, over a period of months, the cobwebs began to clear.

"What I learned about it is that it's not a religion but a spiritual relationship, maybe that's why I got drawn into it," she says.

## Full circle

Unlike many new converts, whose evangelical zeal gets the better of them, Kitchie doesn't get in people's faces about Jesus. But one also senses that a large part of it is because her faith is a deeply personal thing with her, and at heart, Kitchie is shy and uncomfortable talking about personal stuff.

"Let's just say that my world revolves around my spiritual life," she says.

Ironically (or maybe not, if you believe that God has a wonderful plan for your life), this spiritual awakening has brought her full circle, back to the music.

"When I left Mojofly, I was ready to give up the whole thing," she recalls. "So now people are asking me, *bakit ka bumalik*? When I left the band, I had all of these songs, and I wanted to record them as a demo, to give to other artists, or maybe to sing on a few featured gigs, *kasi sayang*."

When they heard the songs, however, two of her friends from the Victory Christian Fellowship—Tommy Tanchanco and Roca Cruz—encouraged her to send the demo to NU107, the "modern rock" FM station. The response was almost instantaneous. People started calling in, asking about the new songs they heard.

Then Kitchie made a one-shot guest appearance on "Music on the Road," a TV special which aired on Channel 2, playing with Parokya ni Edgar, and the audience response was even bigger.

"In the beginning, I didn't want to commit because I was afraid," she says. "I didn't even have a band then. But there was so much grace. People were helping me a lot. I can't explain what happened. Everything just fell into place."

Within a matter of weeks, her friends Tommy and Roca had formed a management company to handle her. They recorded her eponymous solo debut album, and landed a distribution deal with Warner Music Philippines, which released "Kitchie Nadal" last October. By December, the album had gone gold. Now Kitchie is back to performing regularly, although her priority is still finishing college.

It was almost a repeat of her experience with Mojofly, only this time, it wasn't like being shot out of a cannon.

"Now there's a sense of purpose," she says. "Now I know I'd be miserable if I wasn't doing this."

Sunday Inquirer Magazine December 19, 2004
Vol. 18 No. 42 ISSN 0116 - 232X

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**CHRISTMAS TREE EXHIBIT**

InterContinental Manila holds its annual Christmas Tree exhibit featuring the creations of some of the best names in visual arts, fashion and design. On display at the lobby until Jan. 6 are stunning creations by Archie Chua, Rachy Cuna, Gerry Gonzalez, Lito Perez, Barge Ramos, Mita Rufino and The Sari-Sari Group. In photo is Deck the Tree with Rolls of Sari by the Sari-Sari Group. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

ART AND SUFFERING

If POPS Fernandez can turn her trials and tribulations ("Pops Finds Peace in the Public Eye," SIM, 28 November 2004) into convincing art instead of just being a rich entertainer with so many CDs sold or a superficial pop singing sensation, then those heartaches may be worth everything. After all, that's how Frank Sinatra got away from just being a song interpreter after those many divorces, by using his marital troubles to make his interpretation of his songs deeper. After his experiences with drugs, Eric Clapton made his blues bluesier. Billie Holliday's painful ghetto background was the force behind her heartbreak songs. What if Vincent Van Gogh didn't slash his ear, or wasn't schizophrenic? Behind all great art is great suffering.

**GB REYNALDO**
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EYE-OPENER

I would like to commend the article ("Their Canadian Dream—Or Nightmare?" SIM, 12 December 2004) that truly describes what happens to people who migrate to Canada. These facts should be an eye-opener to our government, because despite the difficulties of our two *kababayans*, they still opted to stay in their new country. The brain drain of the Philippines is a serious matter that is not being given due attention. Our educational system, which used to be one of the best, is not being recognized in Canada.

One of the interviewees accepted a security guard position but didn't disclose how much she was receiving. For everyone's information, the minimum wage (at present) in Vancouver is CA$8 per hour as compared to our P268 per day. So it won't be fair to ask why these people chose to accept menial jobs. It's a matter of accepting the kind of job they allowed to happen because they thought they had no choice. Having lived in Vancouver for almost seven months, I've had my share of stories, good and bad, and all I can say is, the Canadian life may be a dream or a nightmare, but the choice is within our control. When I first got here, with my masteral education, Philippine business experience, and CPA designation, I planned to do business, but after three months, I succumbed to the need to "have Canadian experience" because I didn't want to pay career planners who charge from CA$3,000-$7,000. It's not a matter of being what you are not (like being a janitor if you are a professional) but knowing what you can do, given the new environment that you are in.

I am very new in this maple leaf country, and I myself am learning what it's like to be in a different environment where there are no landslides, no pollution, etc. I admit I terribly miss my loved ones whom I left in the Philippines, but it's up to me to make this a dream come true, or to be awakened by a real nightmare.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Tickled Pink

## SMART and Gift Gate Present the Hello One-of-a-Kind Museum

Most of the gathered throng at the ground floor of Glorietta 2 were in pink this past Saturday as Gift Gate launched a truly unique kind of museum. The Hello One-of-a-Kind Museum features that beloved cutie of a cat, Hello Kitty, in all her glory. Celebrating her 30th birthday, Hello Kitty welcomed guests galore who were treated to an equally different kind of fashion show. From December 12 to 30, the museum will feature over a thousand extraordinary Hello Kitty tees. Gift Gate and SMART recently sponsored the Hello Kitty Design a Tee contest, which saw a huge number of t-shirt designs being submitted.

The Hello Kitty Design a Tee contest was open to people of all ages, with the basic requirement being to create something exciting and innovative out of a standard t-shirt provided by the organizers. "Wintry Snazzy Kitty" by Maureen Reeca Cruz won the grand prize of P100,000 with "Hello Kitty Shopsville" from Geraldine Meneses in 2nd place with P50,000. Over P300,000 worth of prizes were given away as prizes to entries in different categories including SMART and Hello Kitty, SMART Buddy with Hello Kitty, SMART Kid with Hello Kitty, SMART Gold and Hello Kitty, and Addict Mobile and Hello Kitty.

You can own one of those tees while helping the less fortunate this Christmas. Join the auction for the t-shirts designed by celebrities and you automatically donate to the Red Cross and the Kabalikat Buhay Foundation in helping typhoon victims. Why not download your favorite cat onto your celfone today? Just key in KITTY and send to 306 to get a list of Hello Kitty services including logos, picture messages, and MMS wallpapers.

With celebrities like Tim Yap, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Addict Mobile hunks Borgy Manotoc, Brent Javier, and Matteo Guidicelli gracing the occasion, Hello Kitty truly felt like a star. And with Martin Nievera serenading everyone at the "SMART Lounge" in the back of the museum, Hello Kitty felt the love from everyone in attendance. So make sure to head on over to the Hello One-of-a-Kind Museum, and be purr-fectly with Hello Kitty today.

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Rissa Samson models Grand Prize Winner for Hello Kitty Design-a-Tee, "Winty Snazzy Kitty"

2nd Prize went to "Hello Kitty Shopsville", worn by Marilen Faustino

"Stylized Kitty Slant," modeled by Bubbles Paraiso, took home 3rd place

"Pinoy Kitty" won 4th Prize

The doorway to a pink world like no other

Boy Martirez, Manny Pangilinan, Virgie Ramos and Matteo Guidicelli prepare to open the museum



Martin Nievera welcomed Hello Kitty fans to the SMART Lounge



Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tim Yap were two of the hosts of the festivities



Showing off the SMART and Hello Kitty-influenced shirts

Tons of Hello Kitty memorabilia can



Nicolette Bell models the "Funky Feline" shirt, winner of SMART Special Award for Addict Mobile



Borgy, Tim and Tessa try out the fountain of chocolate



Dress like a kitty



Making their own tees



Borgy Manotoc and Matteo Guidicelli in their Hello Kitty-inspired outfits



Sen. Jamby Madrigal and Maurice Arcache



Addict Mobile's Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos, Boy Martirez, Manny Pangilinan, Matteo Guidicelli, Addict Mobile's Borgy Manotoc



Fans of Hello Kitty can [illegible] all shapes and sizes

Little Lives

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

# A Guard-ian Angel in Jail

***Young inmates at the Caloocan City Jail have found a friend, surrogate mother, and justice advocate in JO2 Renee Rose Castro. But even she can't grant their Christmas wish***

REM ZAMORA

**FOR Jason, Charles and Eskapo, a meaningful Christmas can be summed up in a four-letter word: *laya* (freedom).**

But it's not a wish they're bound to have anytime soon. The three minors are inmates of the Caloocan City Jail, one of 73 young offenders aged 12 to 18 under the care of Jail Officer 2 Renee Rose Castro.

Jason, 13, and Charles, 14, have been charged with rape and attempted rape, respectively, while Eskapo, 14, has been accused of being a member of the Akyat Bahay (house robbery) gang. Most of her young wards are suspects in theft, robbery and snatching cases, according to JO2 Castro, with the lone female detainee, 17, under investigation for attempted murder.

But unlike most jail wardens, Castro considers her wards less as felons or young criminals and more as surrogate children who fell prey to life's cruel circumstances.

"*Ang mali lang sa kanila yung ginawa nila, di 'yung pagkatao nila. Naligaw lang sila ng landas* (What they did may be wrong, but there's nothing wrong with them. They lost their way, that's all)," she says.

Castro, 34, cites parental neglect and grinding poverty as the main factors that push children into a life of crime. Some 70 percent of the offenders under her custody are school dropouts. "*Yun iba ni walang dalaw, walang pamilya* (Some don't even have visitors and can't trace their families)," she adds. Violent homes also drive some minors into becoming repeat offenders, observes Castro. "They keep coming back because they say they feel safer in jail, they have friends here."

## An enlightened attitude

Castro's enlightened attitude she credits to a series of seminars she took, first under Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), an international group of doctors who provide assistance wherever in the world they are needed, and later under UNICEF and the Juvenile Justice Network, with supervision from Community Relations Service Chief Insp. Carolina Borrinaga.

Among other skills, Castro learned about the rights of children, how to handle minors in conflict with the law, and how to develop their character even while in detention. One major lesson she took to heart is that discipline can be imposed without using physical means, even among young toughies. "Before I attended the seminars, we'd use a paddle to punish detainees, *hanggang maglatay sila* (until they get welts from the blows). But the MSF people told us that we must impose appropriate penalties for wrongdoings, especially among the young. They can be *makulit* (troublesome), but that's part of childhood, the MSF staff said. Childhood isn't forever after all, *nagdaan din tayo dyan* (we all went through that phase)."

Instead of wielding the paddle, Castro now uses exercises—modified squats—to punish misbehaving inmates. "At least, even when they get tired, it's a good kind of tiredness," she adds.

They've had their share of 50 squats apiece, volunteer Jason, Charles and Eskapo, for causes that range from *kakulitan* and *asaran* (teasing and minor fights) to *balatbat*, or going out of their cells even when they have no visitors.

For fellow personnel and adult inmates who still resort to corporal punishment in dealing with her wards, Castro has a few choice words: "I would tell them, *okey lang sana yan pero baka tayo makasuhan. Bawal na kasi yan sa batas.* (Careful, we might get sued. The law forbids that now)." So far, she crows, there are no more violent incidents involving police personnel and young inmates.

Aside from intermittent fights among inmates, *buryong* or extreme boredom and anomie is a common problem in confined spaces filled with pent-up frustration, a sense of injustice and perennial want. "Sometimes, we'd see some detainees staring off into space, *nakatulala*. Or they make trouble. *Nabuburyong*," observes Castro. While she has always lent a ready ear ("I'd call them in to tell me their life stories and sometimes that helps, this one-on-one human contact"), she also knows that there's only so much she can do to help.

"I ask them, *'O, kaya mo pa ba?* (Can you still hack it?) Don't worry, this is not forever. *Lalaya ka rin.* I try to lighten things up," she adds. "I tell them, jokingly, *'O, mamasyal ka muna sa* Luneta *o dyan sa* Manila Zoo. Walk around, focus on something else, get physical," says Castro, who initially wanted to be a psychiatrist had her father not insisted that she take up criminology instead.

"My father was an overseas worker in Saudi and thought that psychiatry was a course we could not afford," recalls this eldest of three siblings, including an adopted brother. "He'd rather I become a toughie," she laughs, referring to their rough and tumble neighborhood in Tondo.

Though it was not her first choice, the course eventually grew on her, says Castro. "We were spoiled," she says of her two other female classmates in a class of 50 to 60. Only about five percent of criminology students are women.

It was at the Philippine College of Criminology that Castro met her future husband, who also works at the Caloocan City Jail as an intelligence officer. They have a six-year-old daughter.

Castro started as a security officer at Isetann Department Store before applying in 1997 at the jail where she previously had her on-the-job training. This former Sangguniang Kabataan official became a female searcher before being made custodian of Juvenile Cell No. 005. "I like it here," she says. "The hours are flexible."

## A better system

It also helps that she has developed empathy for her wards, who regard the cheery Castro as *barkada* (peer). "I don't know all of them by name, except the most troublesome and the quiet ones," she says. For their Christmas party this year, she's providing the music. "I used to bring food as well but it's not that affordable anymore," she adds.

But more than just adding to the party spirit, Castro wishes she could gift them what they really need: a better juvenile justice system.

"Unless they can post bail, minors are kept in jail while hearings on their case are ongoing," she says. But with clogged dockets, hearings can drag on for years even for minor crimes like vagrancy. Jason's case is typical: "I've been here more than a year now because they keep postponing the hearings," he says. The record holder, says Castro, was one minor who stayed in jail for six years while his case was being heard.

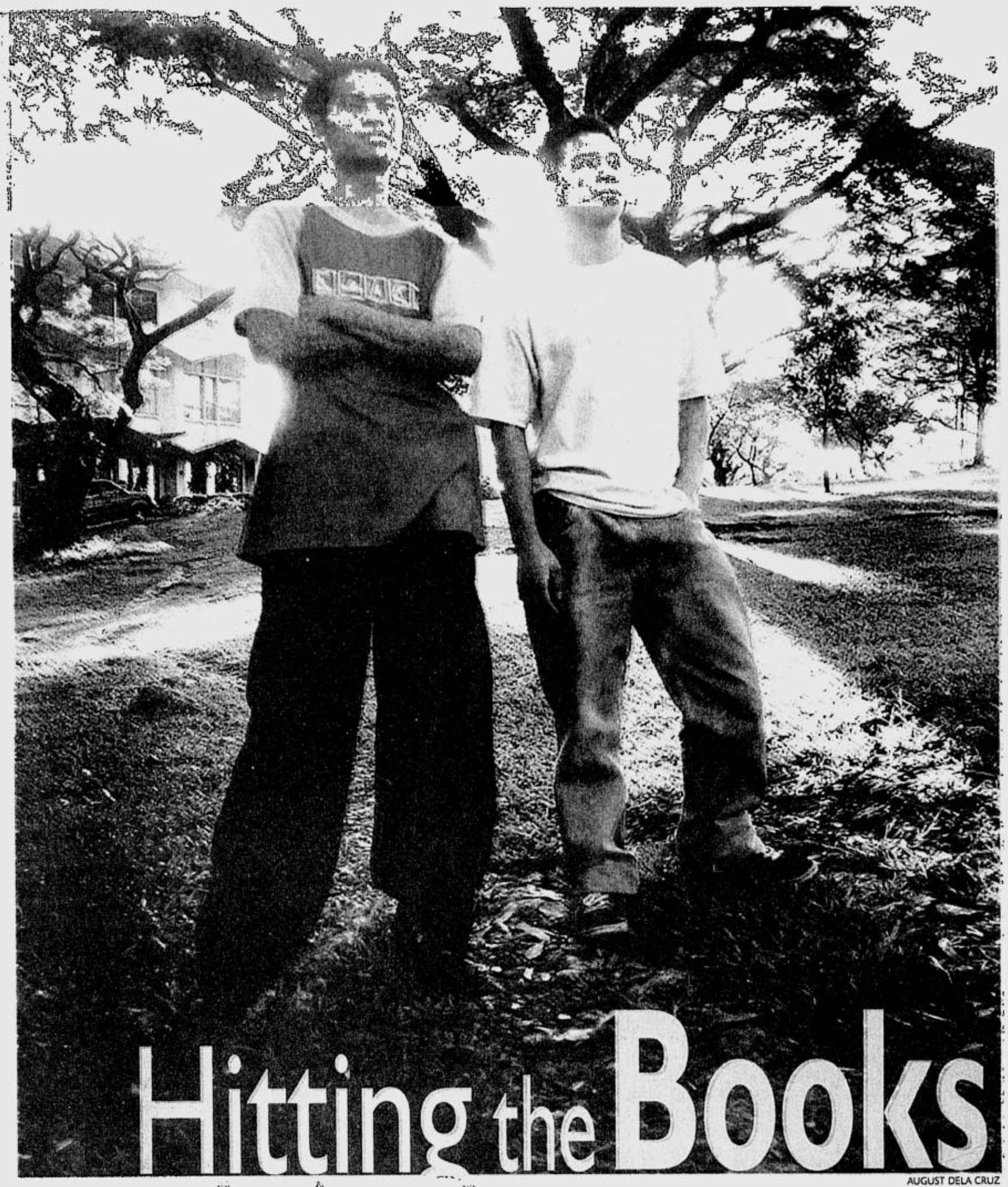
Several young offenders also claim that while lawyers from the Public Attorneys' Office visit them thrice a week, their legal counsels often advise them to plead guilty to the charges to speed up the process along. Being minors, they will be let off easy, the overworked public defendants say. Unfortunately, this does not always happen, and the minors often find themselves facing a stiff prison sentence.

Castro says she advises the parents of young offenders to try and raise the bail money, about P8,000 for robbery, if only to keep the minors with them and out of jail while the hearings are ongoing. "I tell them that they'd spend as much in fare money and supplies during their visits to jail, plus lose their daily wages when they take time off from work."

Then there are the other "incidental" expenses. Each detainee makes a one-time P500 deposit that the young inmates use to buy their needs, in this case, a second-hand TV with a VCD player, the centerpiece in Cell 005's cramped quarters. "Aside from dancing, (TV) is our only recreation," says Charles. To replenish their kitty, de-

To page 6

Bernie (left) and Cris are working towards a brighter tomorrow



Young Achievers

*By Ruel S. De Vera*

***Thanks to an ingenious educational initiative, deserving students like Crisanto Bordon and Bernie Nebres are getting that all-important chance to gain a college degree***

# Hitting the Books for A Better Life

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

**FRAMED college diplomas are among the most precious artifacts of the Filipino dream. Hanging side by side on the wall of family sanctuaries, these documents are testament to the Pinoys' unerring belief that education will change their lives forever.**

But that elusive aspiration is slipping away from the reach of those who dream of it. Anyone who wants a quality college education needs to afford it first—and those who need it the most cannot have it.

But sometimes, somehow, it all works out. For Crisanto Bordon and Bernie Nebres, it was literally a new path to something they dreamt of.

Both Bordon and Nebres are among the college scholars being aided by the unique program Pathways To Higher Education. After just two years, Pathways, a joint project of the Ateneo de Manila University and the Ford Foundation, has placed some 180 underprivileged college students in some 14 universities and colleges nationwide. Pathways is also providing tutorial services, among other programs, to help prepare deserving public high school students for college life, effectively touching the lives of thousands of aspiring college freshmen. The participating schools provide scholarship slots for the chosen few, thus changing those lives forever. With a certain grade point average to maintain in order to keep their scholarships, Bordon and Nebres both have to work hard in the classroom.

## A hard worker

Bordon knows that, if not for a fortunate twist, he could easily just be loafing around at home, he says in Filipino, "without a purpose in the world." Instead, the 16-year-old Bordon is a BS Math freshman at De La Salle University.

Fondly called Cris by friends, Bordon is the third of five children and has been living in the city since he was 3. His parents, Orlando and Corazon, are farmers from Iloilo, where Bordon had lived until a visit to Manila. On his own, he had decided, at a very early age, that he would have a better chance if he stayed in Manila. So when his father returned to Iloilo, Bordon stayed with his aunt in Marikina. "I liked it here, it was more fun," he says with a smile. His aunt served as his guardian while Bordon persevered in the metro. "I would think sometimes why some kids had stuff I didn't, but I know that if I kept studying, I'll get those things someday."

A hard worker in the classroom, he went on to finish at Marikina High School, just in time for Pathways to find him. The stocky Bordon chose BS Math simply because he liked math in high school. His siblings provide a diverse picture: an older brother is a seaman, another older sibling did not finish college, and his two younger siblings are high school students in Iloilo.

Adjusting to college life has been relatively easy; it's the travel that wears him out. "I used to just walk to my high school, now I have to go all the way to Taft," he says with a rueful smile. "It's a really long commute." He stays in school for long periods of time sometimes to wait for the traffic to thin out; he takes this chance to work on projects that need doing, for example. Bordon has made a lot of good friends at La Salle and enjoys simple pleasures: music, hanging out with friends, and "TV, anything on TV."

Right now, he is applying that same work ethic that got him noticed by Pathways to do well in college. Keeping that grade point average up is no joke, he says, a source of additional pressure but a necessary one. "As a scholar, I work harder because unlike others who have money and don't study hard, I have this great opportunity and I have to take full advantage of it," says Bordon, who also benefits from a Department of Science and Technology grant.

No matter what, he remains focused on this goal. "It is so important that I finish." He wants to help out his family financially once he graduates. "I want to help my younger siblings go to college; they study very hard and have dreams in life."

## Bucking the odds

Seventeen-year-old Bernie Nebres seconds the motion. The Elementary Education sophomore at Centro Escolar University is trying to buck the odds and be the first member of his own family to earn a college degree. All he needs by way of motivation is to look around his surroundings in Payatas, Quezon City to know how lucky he is. "Where we live, every kind of crime is there," the lanky and dusky Nebres explains in Filipino. "You can't escape it." Some of his high school classmates never went on to college and now have families. "It reminds me that I have to finish."

Payatas remains a major dumpsite for the Metro Manila area, and Nebres still lives near the community that sprang up around the refuge of refuse. His family doesn't all stay in one place, though. "Our house is too small to fit all of us, so my siblings sleep where they can." Nebres himself sleeps in the house of his older sister, where he can also concentrate on his studies.

Nebres is the youngest of five siblings. His father Felix is a barangay policeman in Payatas and his mother, Adelaida, sews for a living. But his story, just like Bordon's, begins in a much more far-flung locale. Born in the town of Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija, Nebres and his family migrated to Manila when he was in fourth grade. His father tilled a small plot of land while his mother washed clothes and planted vegetables occasionally. Aside from the fact that they had relatives in Manila, Nebres says "we had a better chance, education-wise, in Manila. If we just relied on our life in the province as it was, nothing would come of it. My parents couldn't afford to provide for our studies."

In fact, his four older siblings all failed to finish school. But Nebres was determined to chart a different path. He remained focused during his days at Payatas Elementary School, producing good grades despite having to help out the family in his free time. "Life was hard. We really didn't have any money. When I didn't have class, I'd go to the dumpsite and pick through the trash to find something to sell."

During his high school years, he found some relief as a scholar of their parish, The Parish of the Mother of Divine Providence, where he also served as an altar boy. Meanwhile, his mother also began peddling quail's eggs and fishballs. Nebres and his family also took every opportunity to join contests and promos they'd catch on TV; every little bit helped.

Nebres was in fourth year high school when Pathways found him. Already a top student at Payatas High School, Nebres could never have gone on to college without some kind of scholarship. "Studying was always important for me, because I wanted a different life from that of my parents. It never occurred to me to not complete my education. I saw this as my opportunity."

Landing as a Secondary Education major at CEU, Nebres eventually shifted to Elementary Education instead. "I reflected and realized I preferred being able to pass on knowledge to younger students, before they got hard-headed."

This future elementary school teacher is quite the athlete as well, suiting up for the CEU track and field varsity team. Nebres likes tennis and badminton, too. "Actually, I like almost all sports," he says, but he didn't have the time in high school. To unwind, Nebres likes looking for a quiet place and just sleeping.

## Not just doleouts

Nebres is fiercely determined to complete his degree. "I eventually want to put up my own school, but one that doesn't charge fees, a school where students who really can't afford to study are welcome. I would love to be the head of a university." Aside from that goal, he'd like to set up a seamstress shop for his mother. "And I would really like to buy that plot of land my father used to plow in Nueva Ecija."

Harvey Keh is director of Pathways, helping found its Philippine incarnation two years ago. Pathways now has offices in South Cotabato, Bulacan and Baguio. "There's a very long screening process," Keh explains.

Keh emphasizes that Pathways is not actually a scholarship program. "We don't give doleouts. We believe that the only you can help these poor kids is to empower them to make sure they achieve a better future." Additionally, Pathways helps out parents by providing training in possible livelihood projects.

For now, Pathways is carefully watching over their current scholars and looking for new ones, helping an entire generation of young people believe that the future can be different if they work hard enough. It goes beyond the magic sheepskin and the gilded frame; it's the children changing everything.

*For inquiries regarding Pathways To Higher Education, please call 426-6001 local 4044 to 4049 or e-mail pathways@admu.edu.ph.*

People to the Planet

By Maria Congee S. Gomez

# The Bee Lady of Bohol

CONGEE GOMEZ

**HOW did 44-year-old nurse Vicky Wallace become the most sought-after figure this side of Bohol?**

Born and raised in this province, Vicky remains vocal about the sorry state of farming and of farmers. She observes that they have not regained their niche in the local markets due to the onslaught of liberal trade policies existing in the country.

The hope gets dimmer, Vicky says, as she notices the country's continued reliance on foreign produce, setting aside support for the locally grown. "We have to create the markets to help farmers raise their standard of living a notch higher."

Unknown to many, Vicky is not only a mouthpiece of issues that affect the plight of farmers. She is a staunch believer in life, an advocate of organic farming, a firm practitioner of companion planting and an avowed insect-lover. In 1991, she bought a 4.8-hectare property to pursue her love for farming. Two years after, she established the Bohol Bee Farm to continue promoting things that are organically grown. She thinks her love for farming was more innate than developed, and must have been strengthened during years of living with her grandparents in Pangasinan.

"Farming is the best thing that ever happened in my life," confesses Vicky, eyes rolling upward, hands open as though receiving grace. "I remember we would visit the farm and haul *camote*, corn and *ube*.

***After becoming a young widow, organic and bee farmer Vicky Wallace turned her solitude into an opportunity to return to her first love, tilling the earth and respecting all the creatures that live in it***

Bees, like other insects, are friends and allies, says Wallace

LEONA NEPOMUCENO

The sheer delight of cupping the earth with bare hands gave you such an affinity with Mother Nature. Then, we would walk the farm animals in a clearing or simply play with them."

### Fascinated with ants

Vicky still spends most of her mornings among rows of green leafy plots that she has devoted to assorted romaine lettuce, mustard greens, celery, eggplants, pepper and many more. Although the absence of big animals is obvious, nothing is lost with her newfound fascination with the insect world. The ant world in particular is of interest to Vicky. While others have considered insects predators on the farm, Vicky calls them her friends and allies. "We have introduced companion planting that allows the growth of different kinds of indigenous materials near the vegetable gardens. The materials are never removed because they serve as shelter and nesting place for insects."

There are 14 brown houses at the bee farm intended for basic composting purposes. The vegetables are naturally grown and are spared from chemical sprays. Not only does Vicky cite the harmful effects of these on human health, but also the damage they can do to the soil. After farming for nine years, Vicky has come up with her own mix of fertilizer that is partly seawater and partly tap water.

Insects are not an alarming issue, as far as Vicky is concerned. "It is easy to live harmoniously on the farm with other creatures." Observers have pointed to the practice as very Oriental, but Vicky insists she is not aware of such similarities. Even if this raised speculations that her marriage to American Thomas Edward Wallace resulted in some weird transformation, Vicky says she is not aware of that, either. "My marriage to Thomas, who was 58 years old, when I was 20, had nothing to do with how I think right now."

A typical discussion with her husband, an African American, was always interesting, she recalls, as it delved on world issues such as racism, equal rights, freedom, slavery and economy, among others. When Thomas died in 1988, Vicky waited for three years to "stabilize" herself. She bought the property in Barangay Dao, Sitio Dauis (where the bee farm is) to pursue a dream to go back to farming. Another property in Barangay Inabanga, 70 km north of Bohol, was improved to house the bees.

"Farming was not a half-baked decision I resorted to after becoming a young widow. The enthusiasm was shared by my children Mellanie and Abdul who, like me, believe that being close to Mother Nature is far more important than other things."

### Sharing knowledge

The bee farm is Vicky's way of sharing knowledge with visitors about products that are organically grown. The house's mouth-watering specialties include vegetable and honey-based products such as squash muffins, herb *camote* bread, and bee farm concoctions of fruity ice cream, homey spread, garden salad and honeyed *tableya*.

There is Vicky's inner sanctum, too, which she calls her meditation place. Devoid of clutter and unnecessary things, its is also decorated with beautiful blue tile works and flimsy white fabric for curtains. "You don't have to go somewhere to find a place to meditate," Vicky suggests. "A quiet spot at home where you can regularly meditate for about 15 minutes is fine. It is a cleansing process so wonderful for the system."

Running both the coffee shop and the farm is not a profit-driven endeavor. Vicky refuses to mass-produce because she believes her market might not be able to understand how the bee farm operates. The resort owners around Bohol buy her vegetables in bulk, but she sees to it that her specialties are bought only at the coffee shop, and not anywhere else. In this way, she can meet with the buyers and explain to them the bee farm way.

These days, Vicky is not only tied up with information dissemination. She also sits as an active member of the Bohol Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture and Development (BIFAD). Her continuing struggle to make organic farming a priority item for agriculture tops her wish list. "Let us not turn down the opportunity to help others. In life it is not only about an individual or about ourselves, but also the welfare of others."

## A Caring ...from page 4

tainees who have visitors are asked to donate P25 per visit to help defray expenses for pirated CD movies, among other supplies.

With most parents hard up to raise the bail bond, Castro advises them to seek an ROR (release on recognizance) order that would allow them or the Social Welfare department to take custody of the minors instead. But again, this would take time, she adds.

Castro also wishes that young detainees would be accommodated not in jail "where they are exposed to adult inmates and an unhealthy atmosphere," but in rehabilitation quarters like the National Training School for Boys in Tanay "where there's plenty of fresh air, playground space, and a house mother to give the place the semblance of home." The NTSB however can only accommodate 200 residents at any one time, says Castro. "Sometimes they request us to keep the minors under our custody a little while longer until a slot opens up in the facility," she adds.

Until some enlightened government office grants Castro's Christmas wishes for her young wards, they would have to regard the Caloocan City Jail as their temporary home.

Fortunately, with JO2 Castro around, that should not be too hard.

# Cinema

UP Film Institute's schedule of screenings: Jan. 17, 5 p.m.—"The Yin-yang Master"; Jan. 18, 5 p.m.—"My Wife is a Gangster"; Jan. 19, 2 and 5 p.m.—"Bayani"; Jan. 20, 5 p.m.—"House of Flying Daggers"; Jan. 21, 5 p.m.—"The Sin"; Jan. 24, 5 p.m.—"The Good Lawyer's Wife"; Jan. 25, 5 p.m.—"Happy Times"; Jan. 26, 2 p.m.—"Nang-Nak"; Jan. 26, 5 p.m.—"The Fruit Is Swelling"; Jan. 27, 5 p.m.—Zhou Yu's "Train"; Jan. 28, 5 p.m.—"2046"; Jan. 31, 5 p.m.—"Three." For details, call 926-3640 (direct line), 926-2722 (telefax) or e-mail upfilminstitute@hotmail.com.

# Art

**and**, an exhibit of 12 progressive media artists-photographers, graphic designers and filmmakers, and web designers and artists, until Dec. 19 at Food and Art Galerie, GT Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

**Grace and Gestures**, drawings by Angelo Magno at Art Elements Gallery, The Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Jan. 3.

**Xmas Show**, an annual closing art event featuring small works by 61 of Mag:net Gallery's roster of artists curated by Nilo Ilarde at Mag:net Gallery Katipunan, Agcor Building, 335 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC until Jan. 6. For details, contact Shey at 929-3191.

**"Maranao *(Naghinoktok)*" by Julie Lluch, on view at Galleria Duemila**

The unique **Christmas lanterns of Bauan High School** are on exhibit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' second floor hallway until Jan. 6. The exhibit features the winners of the lantern-making contest, "Parulan," using indigenous and recyclable materials.

**Ang Kiukok** presents his old works on paper featuring variations on the human figure at Finale Art Gallery, 4/F LaO Arcade, Pasay Road corner Makati Avenue, Makati City until Jan. 10.

Boston Gallery and Pinto Art Gallery is launching **Alay 8**, a comprehensive show that features paintings, drawings, sculptures and artworks by more than 50 participating visual artists. Exhibit opens today and runs until Jan. 12. For details, call 697-1015 and 722-9205.

**"Lovers" by Ang Kiukok, on exhibit at Finale Makati**

**Terracotta**, an exhibit of sculptures of Maranao women by Julie Lluch, until Jan. 12 at Galleria Duemila, 4/F, The Artwalk, SM Megamall A. For details, call 634-3261.

**Terrain Games**, a two-man exhibit of abstractions by visual artists Sandra Palomar and Trek Valdizno at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, G/F, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeno Sts., Makati City until Jan. 17. For details, call 817-7895.

# Music

**Sexy, Naughty Bitchy We**, a dance-comedy-fashion show featuring the GoGirls with special guests Tuesday Vargas and Andrew E at Ratsky Tomas Morato on Dec. 21 at 9 p.m. The concert is also for the benefit of the Kaisahang Buhay Foundation based in Quezon City. For tickets, call 453-9420 or 0920-9253231/ 0917-3201166.

# Onstage

Ecole de Ballet, Manille students take center-stage in **Concert at the Park** with their version of the classic fairy tale, "Hansel and Gretel" by the Grim Brothers under the artistic direction of Nina Anonas de Santos. To be staged today at 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Admission is free.

# Food

**Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Gingerbread House** is a shopper's delight, proffering yuletide specialty items from duck liver pates to Christmas cookies and hampers. A replica of the gingerbread house is also available at Alabang Town Center to serve residents from the south until Dec. 31.

The **Westin Philippine Plaza** offers **The Longest Buffet** on Dec. 24, 25 and 31 with a banquet of international specialties from the hotel's three restaurants, Café Plaza, Alfiere and China Sea, bringing the best of Asian, Italian and Continental cuisine. For inquiries, call 551-5555.

**Manila Pavilion Hotel's Goodie Counter** makes appetizing treats like cakes, cookies, pralines and gingerbread. Hampers are also available until Dec. 31 from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Lobby. At the Café Coquilla, families will enjoy a selection of local and international cuisine with the Christmas Eve Dinner buffet on Dec. 24 and the New Year's Eve Buffet on Dec. 31. For a classier Noche Buena, a Christmas Eve Special Set Menu is offered at the Rotisserie. For inquiries, call 526-1212.

Transform conventional parties into hefty holiday feasts with **Super Bowl of China's Super Gift Box**—a whole suckling pig with hoisin sauce or a whole roast duck served with plum sauce. For orders, call 747-2845 or 747-2048 at least two days in advance.

Ideal personal gifts or corporate giveaways, **Edsa Shangri-La's hampers** contain goodies such as cookies, truffles, stollen, gingerbread, Paparazzi's sun-dried tomato pesto, Summer Palace's X.O. sauce, *fois gras*, spicy pepperoni salami and honey-dressed ham. You can also choose from ready-made hampers in five different sizes or custom-make your own hamper with a minimum of three different items. For reservations, call 633-8888 ext. 2840.

The **Richmonde Hotel** cooks up generous feasts this Christmastime with delectable holiday choices and a variety of luscious desserts. Dinner and lunch buffets are available on Dec. 24 and 25. The Richmonde Grill offers a grand buffet of international dishes for New Year's Eve dinner that includes sparkling wine and party favors to welcome the coming year. For details, call 638-7777 ext. 3409.

**For this week's bands and schedules call:**

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

**The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE** welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

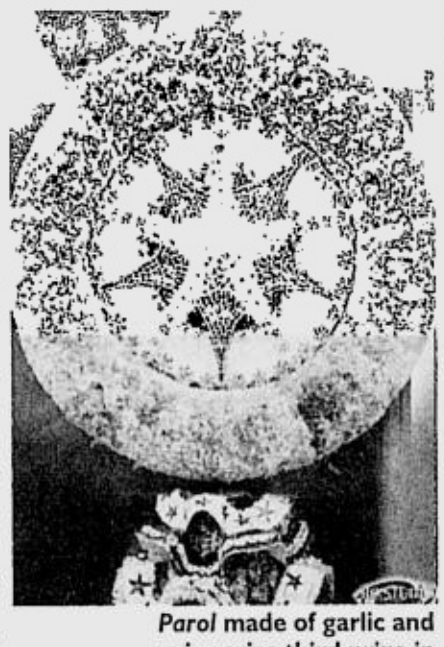
# Atbp

The **Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops** announces that it has moved its workshops for October to May 2005 due to requests from participants. Its regular courses are video production, how to be an effective on-cam television talent, film directing, cinematography, scriptwriting, production design, digital editing, publications design, and crisis communication management. The workshop will also be brought to the provinces called Workshop Caravan with Pangasinan and La Union as first stops. For inquiries, call 925-1915.

In line with the ongoing exhibit "Unfolding Manila," which focuses on the transformation of Manila as recorded through photographs and written accounts, the Lopez Memorial Museum has invited National Artist for Literature **F. Sionil Jose** to give a **lecture** on Jan. 15, from 2-4 pm. Fee is P100. The Lopez Memorial Museum is open Mondays to Saturdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except holidays and is located at the G/F, Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 63-12417.

**"Terrain Games," on view at Mag:net Paseo, Makati**

A series of ***basic and advanced photography courses*** will be conducted by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation at the Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The basic photo course will start on Jan. 9 while the advanced course will be on Jan. 8. Lecturers will be veteran photographers Vic Sison, Ador Pamintuan, Prof. Cecilia Angeles, Ed Santiago, Tilak Hettige and Tony Raval. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. For inquiries, call Lerma Aquino or Beverly Estrosas at 843-5341 and 813-7420.



***Parol* made of garlic and onion wins third prize in the Bauan High School lantern-making contest**

Pre-registration is now ongoing for the 1st quarter **2005 Art Workshops at Ayala Museum.** Courses offered are: Play Art for Toddlers (Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, and 12); Drawing with Charcoal and Pastel (Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, and 12); Introduction to Oil Painting (Feb. 19, 26, March 5 and 12); Introduction to Acrylics (Feb. 19, 26, March 5 and 12); Introduction to Sculpture (Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5 and 12); Charcoal and Pastel Drawing for Beginners (Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, Feb. 19, 26, March 5 and 12); Basic Chinese Landscape Painting (Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4 and 11); Intermediate Drawing: Portrait and Figure (Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9); Intermediate Jewelry Making (March 10, 17, 24, 31); Basic Mosaic Making (March 19, 26, April 2 and 9). Pre-registration is required per workshop prior to enrollment period which is one week before each workshop schedule begins. For inquiries and registration, call 757-7117 to 21 local 29 or email inquiry@ayala-museum.org.

The Japan Foundation, Manila announces the 2005 **Nihongo Speech Contest** to be held on Feb. 19, 2 p.m. at the College of St. Benilde Theater, Taft Avenue, Manila. The contest is an ideal platform for Filipino students and professionals to demonstrate their linguistic skills through articulating an original composition written by themselves on a theme of their choice. The deadline for submission of the duly accomplished application form with a written copy and a recording of the speech will be on Feb. 1. For details, call 811-6155 to 58.

## Pinoy Ngayon

By Jess Abrera

### Midnight Mass

## The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

# Too Good To Be False

***We must remind the world that if Christmas comes in the dead of winter, it is so that there may be an Easter in the spring***

**A CHRISTMAS Excerpt from Fr. Horacio de la Costa, SJ:**

Christmas is when we celebrate the unexpected—it is the festival of surprise.

This is the night when shepherds wake to the song of angels; when the earth has a star for a satellite; when wise men go on a fool's errand, bringing gifts to a Prince they have not seen in a country they do not know.

### Night of all nights

This is the night when one small donkey bears on his back the weight of the world's desire, and an ox plays host to the Lord of heaven. This is the night we are told to seek our King not in a palace but in a stable; and although we have stood here, year after year, as our parents before us, the wonder has not faded nor will it ever fade; the wonder of that moment when we push open the little door and enter, and entering find in the arms of a Mother who is a Virgin, a Baby who is God.

### The homeless God

G.K. Chesterton has said it all for all of us: "The only way to view Christmas properly is to stand on one's head." Was there ever a house more topsy-turvy than the House of Christmas, the Cave where Christ was born? For here, suddenly in the very heart of earth, is heaven; down is up and up is down; the angels and the stars look down on the God who made them and God looks up at things He made. There is no room in an inn for Him who made room, and to spare, for the Milky Way! And where God is homeless, all men are at home.

### Gifts we don't expect

We were promised a Savior, but we never dreamed that God himself would come to save us. We knew that He loved us, but we never dared to think that He loved us so much as to become like us. But that is the way God gives. His gifts are never quite what we expect but always something better, something far better than we hope for. We can only dream of things too good to be true; God has a habit of giving things too good to be false.

**CMY residents and Fr. Ben with *Lola* Milagring Aliling**

### What we need

That is why our Christian faith is the faith in the unexpected, a religion of surprise. Now more than ever, living in times so troubled, facing a future so uncertain, we need such faith. We need it for ourselves and we need it to give others. We must remind the world that if Christmas comes in the dead of winter, it is so that there may be an Easter in the spring.

* * *

### Calendar

Today, December 19, 2004 (fourth Sunday of Advent) is your Christmas Date with us at CMY. Come to our Paskong Misa at 5 p.m. and Paskong Salusalo and Paskong Harana (Christmas caroling) with Ate Pining Santiago and her DZRM (Radio Magasin) Haranistas.

Bring something "merry" for needy babies and children (ages 0-10)—anything usable "baby things" and "baby goodies" like "baby milk," "baby clothes," "baby soap," toys, candies, biscuits … and/or any gifts from your table for 22 in-house migrant youths and out-of-house street youths under our care (ages 15-22): canned foods, cooking oil, rice, milk, coffee, sugar, noodles, bath and laundry soap, used/usable clothes anything from your table, pantry or cabinet that you can afford to share as a gift to the poor at Christmas. Q

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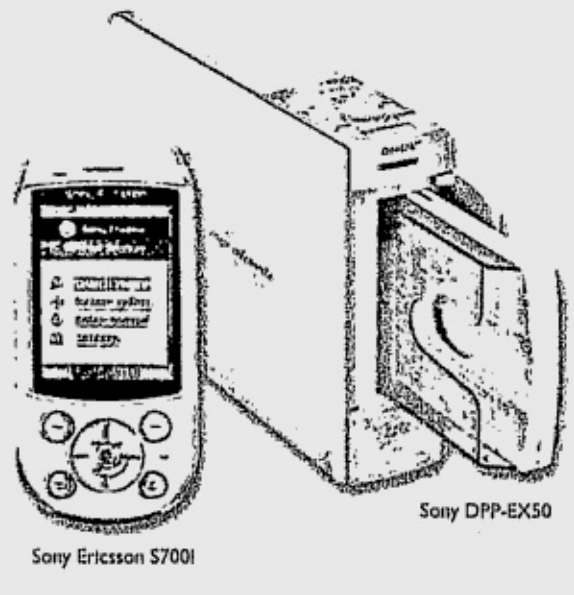

Sony Ericsson S700i

Sony DPP-EX50

### MMS WALLPAPERS

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### THEMES

ANEMONESKIN1

FROGFISHSKIN1

To download Themes:
1. Log on to the SMART WAP site at http://wap.smart.com.ph
2. Go to Amazing Stuff.
3. Go to Handset Themes.
4. Go to BAHURA.
5. Select corresponding phone model (i.e. N6600, P900, T610).
6. Select theme of choice.

Sony Ericsson

To set GPRS Settings on your phone, text SET GPRS <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET GPRS <N6600>. To activate GPRS on your phone, text GPRS ON to 333.

To set MMS Settings on your phone, text SET MMS <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET MMS <N6600>. To activate MMS on your phone, text MMS ON to 333.

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For SMART Infinity, SMART Gold, Addict Mobile, and SMART Buddy subscribers: Handset themes cost P30.00 each. Ringtones and polytones cost P15.00 each. Text messages cost P2.50 each. Info on demand for all except Addict Mobile at P10.00. Addict Mobile's at P5.00.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888 using your SMART cellfone, the SMART Corporate Hotline at 1888, send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.